

Autumn speaks

Autumn speaks
when staves of grain
lie in the fields sere and brown
when leaves are tangerine and gold
and sumac edges wood and pastureland

Autumn speaks
when cobalt skies give whispers of what
is to be
and homing birds wing windward
with promise of infinity

Autumn speaks
when the glory of a summer's song is sung
and all of nature has proclaimed her change
then — earth and creatures wait until
a resurrection springtime comes again.

—Helen F. Boren
Pontotoc

Autumn speaks
when misty mornings
kiss the dawn
and brilliant sun
strings diamonds on
silver spider strands

Autumn speaks
when October pinks
blush shyly in their
tangled beds
and yellow butterflies dance in
grand finale on their flight

The Baptist Record

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Skit depicts High Hill's charter meeting

High Hill Church, Neshoba County, during the observance of its 105th anniversary, presented a skit depicting the charter meeting held in front of the Walter C. Brewer house (which still stands). Members of the cast are all descendants of the charter

members. Front row, left to right, are Jimmy Hudson, Edgar M. Brewer, Jerry Arnold, and J. W. Gilmore. Second row, left to right, are Penny Hudson Mowdy, Huster Gilmore, Johnnie Pinter, and Diana Davidson. Paul H. Leber Sr., is pastor.

Oct., 1857: 'Russia hangs like a cloud'

It is a gloomy moment in history. Not for many years — not for a lifetime of most men who read this — has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable. In our

own country there is apprehension and panic. In France the political cauldron boils and seethes with uncertainty; Russia hangs like a cloud, dark and silent, upon the horizon of Europe; while all the energies,

resources and influence of the British Empire are sorely tried, and are yet to be tried more sorely in coping with the vast and deadly disturbed relations in China. Of our own troubles, no one can see the end.

— Harper's Weekly

Good News dinner termed success

SAN JOSE, Calif. (BP) — More than \$280,000 was pledged by about 1,100 persons in the first "ACTS-Good News America" telemissions dinner in San Jose, Calif., Sept. 19.

Jimmy R. Allen, president of ACTS and its parent organization, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television

Commission, said the "event is by far the largest dinner we have had in a single community, both in terms of attendance and financial support."

Funds derived from the pledges will go to pay the costs of the dinner — estimated to be about \$40,000 — and the remainder will be divided evenly

between the local ACTS board and the ACTS satellite network.

The telemissions dinner was the first of about 20 to be held across the nation as ACTS attempts to raise \$10 million to fund operational costs above and beyond the \$5 million per year the commission receives from the SBC Cooperative Program.

"I can't wait for my next assignment"

By Beth Harris

Jean Allgood of Gulfport has a different perspective on Expo '86 from many of the other nine million people who have visited Vancouver, British Columbia.

That's because Allgood spent three months working as a Mission Service Corps volunteer secretary for Southern Baptists' Expo '86 Ministries.

Expo '86 Ministries, sponsored by the Capilano Southern Baptist Association in Vancouver, reaches out "to touch a world in our midst" through volunteer groups from the U.S., local church volunteers, and a performing group of 17 semester missionaries. Allgood worked in the associational office, assisting director Barbara McKenzie.

Her job was not limited to typing letters and answering phones, however. She played piano for associational events, participated in choir, sang solos, and even cooked some meals for the semester missionaries.

Allgood said she enjoyed the summer. "I feel like any time I'm serving the Lord is a good experience."

She came to Vancouver at the invitation of the Home Mission Board after finishing a four-month stint as a volunteer in Endicott, N.Y. Before that she served five months in Caracas, Venezuela, as secretary/bookkeeper for the mission of Venezuela, and there was a month in Tacoma, Wash. helping with

backyard Bible clubs and Vacation Bible Schools.

Her worldwide Mission Service Corps involvement began three years ago when she learned of the short-term volunteer program through a conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"I went back and immediately wrote both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and asked if they could use me," she said. "I'm a retired schoolteacher, my husband died about two-and-a-half years ago, my family is scattered, and I haven't got much really to keep me at home too much. I also have a means of support so I can support myself to do this."

Allgood said her involvement with Vancouver would not end with her return to Mississippi. She and her church, First Church, Gulfport, have extended financial assistance to each of the places she has served. "My mission has been, everywhere I go, to try to go back and tell the people the needs and try to get support for them. I already have a project in mind for Vancouver."

Her missions involvement won't end, either. She said she planned to continue volunteering. "I think the Lord has called me to do this right now. I like being of service to people and the Lord."

"I can't wait for my next assignment!"

Beth Harris writes for Expo '86 Ministries.



Missions volunteer Jean Allgood of Gulfport, has a brown bag lunch with semester missionaries outside the fair at Expo 86 in Canada.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A good decision

In the past few days the drinking age for beer and light wine has risen from 18 to 21. This wasn't done because Mississippians generally rose up and said it had to be done. There had been bills seeking this kind of action filed in the Legislature for several years prior to the passing of the measure, but they all died in committee.

Finally a bill was submitted, and it passed. It had nothing to do with the moral climate of the state nor the ability and dedication of the one or ones who submitted the bill.

The bill was submitted and passed because the federal government made it known that federal highway funds would be chopped if the action were not taken.

That may not have been the best

way to do it, but it was better than nothing.

A lot of 18 and 19-year-old people and a lot of tavern owners are upset because the young folks will not be able to buy beer and light wine legally any more. They all say that if an 18-year-old is old enough to fight and to vote, he is old enough to drink. But the concepts are totally unrelated.

The fact is that nobody should be called on to fight, and I say that with authority because I am one who did fight in a war. And I mean fight. I got shot at, and I was engaged in shooting back. Nobody should have to do that, and therefore it has no bearing on the legal ability to drink beer. The 18-year-old soldier is at his athletic best as far as activity is concerned. He learns more later, but he is never more able to function as a soldier. That has

nothing to do with whether or not he should be able to buy beer.

The same hold true in voting. There is no reason why the 18-year-old should not vote. At that age he is able to make decisions on his preferences for public office about as well as anybody. That has nothing to do with his ability to make decisions concerning alcohol.

Some 18-year-old people are upset because they have been able to buy beer and light wine legally, and they didn't want to lose that ability. The tavern owners are upset because they didn't want to lose that money.

It was a good decision, however. And whatever it took to get the Legislature to make the decision, it was worthwhile. Alcohol is a mocker. Some people are going to drink. But the fewer who do, the better off we all will be.



Reprinted from The California Southern Baptist.

Guest opinion . . .

The Cooperative Program and Christian child care

By John Alexander

The Baptist Children's Village began on May 12, 1897, in a house on West Capital Street in Jackson when a small group of children were admitted to the care of Mississippi Baptists through the vision, commitment, and effort of Rev. L. S. Foster and friends who supported him. For eighty-nine years Mississippi Baptists have been in the process of receiving and caring for children in the name of Jesus Christ. Thousands of boys and girls have been given nurture and training in a substitute home environment that is distinctively Christian.

Two different plants were constructed on the Woodrow Wilson Drive property before the move to the present modern cottage-style campus on Flag Chapel Drive in West Jackson.

The single largest source of income for the Village is through the Cooperative Program. In 1986, the Cooperative Program provided \$341,000 to the operational funds of the Village. A part of every dollar you give to your church goes to assist the Baptist Children's Village through the Cooperative Program.

Facilities are located in Jackson, New Albany, Tate, Lincoln, and Stone counties.

Over 600 children and youth are currently being provided for on campuses, in homes, and through a network of private foster homes. There is nothing sub-standard about the facilities or program of the Children's Village. The Village subscribes to and follows a code of ethics and a set of

standards substantially higher, more professional and more Christian, than is mandated by the licensing laws of the State of Mississippi. The children at the Village participate in the programs of local Baptist churches where they are taught the Word of God, called to Christian commitment and trained in discipleship.

All children admitted to the Village are bona fide residents of the state and are endorsed by a Mississippi Baptist Convention church. To the maximum extent possible, the natural family is involved in the plan of care of each child admitted.

Since 1981, over 350 children have been helped through the crisis intervention program and have been given extended custodial care under

strict supervision. These are special children with unique needs.

A highly successful ministry has been developed between the Village and the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for providing 4 months of additional therapy to prevent recidivism on the part of youth clinically treated and arrested from addiction to alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances. In one college for boys and one for girls, at all times 20 different teen-agers undergo continued intensive therapy in these cottages, on Village premises, at the hands of trained hospital personnel. This ministry is structured, maintained, and implemented in total separation from the regular program of care, as to home, life, work, supervised recrea-

tion, formal education and worship.

Mississippi Baptists can be proud of the superior ministry provided through the staff and facilities of the Baptist Children's Village.

Inflation and growing requests for child care continue to put increased demands on the Village staff, its facilities and budget.

To see hearts and lives changed makes it worth all the dollars invested in this Christian ministry.

It is a privilege to be a part of this ministry supported by all Mississippi Baptists who give through the Cooperative Program.

John Alexander is director of the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

SBC teaching - training network begins 3rd year

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BN) — BTN, Southern Baptists' teaching and training network, has entered its third year of operation, with subscriptions topping 900 and a long-range commitment to continue aiding ministry efforts of local churches.

Joe Denney, director of the telecommunications department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he receives reports every week from churches which successfully are implementing BTN programs into their ministry efforts.

The 900 subscribers to BTN, the

Baptist Telecommunication Network, make the material available to more than 8,000 churches because of the number of district associations which subscribe, Denney said.

He estimated about 4,000 of the subscribing churches — or one-half of the possible users — have used a tape at least one time. This represents more than 11 percent of all Southern Baptist churches which have made some use of BTN during the network's first two years.

A recent survey of subscribers to BTN programs revealed Sunday

School preparation messages, or programs, comprise the six most popular programs taped in churches. The most popular program is "Preparing to Teach Fours and Fives," which was taped in 72 percent of the subscribing churches. The top six programs all are aired monthly.

The most frequently taped weekly program is the Adult Life and Work preparation message, with 65 percent of subscribers taping on a regular basis. Other popular programs which were frequently taped include "Equipping Deacons as Servant Leaders,"

"Missions Update," "Missions File," "Life and Work for Youth" and "Ministering to Families Today."

"SBC NewScene," the weekly news program, is watched more often at the time of transmission than any other program on BTN. "SBC NewScene" is broadcast on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Central Time, and reportedly watched by about 40 percent of subscribing churches.

The board's offer still is available for churches to receive free use of a television receive-only system for signing a five-year subscription

agreement.

A total of 430 churches had received the equipment as of Sept. 1, and about 250 systems are available to other interested churches.

BTN is one of two telecommunication networks sponsored by Southern Baptist agencies. BTN is sponsored by the Sunday School Board, and ACTS, which programs into homes, is sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission.

Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

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Landrum will open, Henry will close



Henry

Ponder

Young

Briscoe



Barry Landrum

Former Mississippi pastor Barry Landrum will be opening speaker for the 1987 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism/Bible Conference, Feb. 2-4, and Orlando pastor Jim Henry, will close the program.

Between those two will be

messages from Jim Ponder, Stuart Briscoe, and Jerry Young.

The program will take place at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, beginning at 6:45 the evening of Feb. 2, and concluding at 11:10 a.m., Feb. 4.

Barry Landrum, pastor of First Church, Pasadena, Tex., is a former pastor of First Church, Greenville. Henry is pastor of First Church, Orlando. Ponder is an evangelist based in Jacksonville, Fla. Stuart Briscoe is pastor of Elmbrook Church, Waukesha, Wisconsin. And Jerry Young is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Jackson.

Mississippi convention to do Baptists' business

Theme of the 1986 Mississippi Baptist Convention is "One Heart and a New Spirit," taken from Ezekiel 11:19a. This year's convention will take place Nov. 10-12 at First Church, Jackson, traditional site of the annual business and inspirational meeting of messengers from the nearly 2,000 participating Southern Baptist churches in the state.

Sessions of the convention run from Monday evening, Nov. 10, to noon, Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Business on the agenda includes consideration of a 1987 Cooperative

Program budget of \$19 million; election of trustees to the various agencies of the Convention, reports from each of those agencies, election of officers (President Frank Gunn of Biloxi, is eligible for a second one year term); and consideration of any resolutions presented by messengers.

Those who know what their resolutions are to be, are requested to send them in early to the executive secretary's office at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, so the solutions committee can deal with them ahead of time.

'Adjustments' necessary for BJCPA, committee says

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP) — The relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will have to be adjusted if the 14.5-million-member denomination continues to participate in the religious liberty organization, a special SBC study committee has determined.

Although the nature and scope of the adjustment were not spelled out, the study committee's chairman, Gary Young, told Baptist Press it is a "given" that if the current relationship "were satisfactory, our committee would not be in existence."

The seven-member fact-finding committee was appointed during the

September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in response to a motion made at the 1986 annual meeting aimed at defunding the BJCPA and creating "an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington."

Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., said the committee began its study by considering the three options open to the SBC in its relationship with the BJCPA, a 50-year-old religious liberty watchdog organization composed of representatives of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

He noted the options are the "status quo," a "revised status quo" and an

"exclusive Southern Baptist presence."

The BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under increasing fire in the Southern Baptist Convention. The motion in the 1986 annual meeting is the fourth time in four years the BJCPA has come before the Executive Committee. In addition, the Joint Committee also survived a 1984 effort to strip away more than \$400,000 budgeted by the SBC to support its work.

The fact-finding committee met briefly in Nashville, Tenn., following its creation and held its first full meeting Oct. 3-4 in Dallas, where it

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MBC Education Commission

Group wants to "clarify" role through constitution

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission proposed a change in the Mississippi Baptist Convention's constitution relating to its task and elected James Street as its new chairman.

Meeting at Blue Mountain College, Oct. 3, the commission approved a proposed amendment to Article IX of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Constitutional revision subcommittee member Jack Bennett said the amendment was suggested because the commission "had a constitution we could not interpret." Protracted discussion during the meeting by commission members and the presidents of the colleges further hammered out the terminology which, according to Bennett, would "clarify and get out of the idea of a superboard."

Article IX presently includes the phrase "general oversight" as a duty of the commission. The proposal changes that to "cultivate the interest and financial interest of Mississippi Baptists."

Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles noted that the commission needs to avoid the appearance of control of the institutions themselves, which would place accreditation at risk. He suggested that the duty "To inaugurate, promote, and direct any program of examination, survey, research, or evaluation of the institutions as may be deemed necessary to the welfare and health of the institu-

tions or the Convention," should exchange the word "examination" with the word "study." That suggestion was approved.

The proposed changes were approved by the MBC constitution and by-laws committee and will be presented to messengers in November to the convention. This year the changes are read into the minutes for voting the following year.

James Street is pastor of First Church, Cleveland. He replaces chairman John Brock, pastor of Ackerman Church following election of new commission members during the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November.

The Board of Ministerial Education reported that 86 preaching ministerial students were approved to receive \$75 each per month for the fall semester. That is 22 at Blue Mountain College, 26 at Clarke, 18 at Mississippi College, and 20 at William Carey.

Hardy Denham Jr., president of the board, told the Education Commission that it will propose to the Mississippi Baptist Convention actions that will move the board "closer to the implementation of a wider scope of ministry in behalf of all students preparing for ministerial service."

Denham reported that Article X, Sections 2 and 3 will have proposed changes that will replace the terms "licensed and/or ordained Baptist

ministers" and "Baptist ministers" with the terms "Baptist church-related vocational ministerial students."

These changes, along with a budget increase of 43.24 percent, would move the board toward providing aid to students, including women, who are planning on ministerial service. Pressure for the change came from such groups as the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association which voted to ask such a change. This recommendation will take two convention sessions, if approved, to implement.

William Carey reported that its trustees, with the commission's permission, would begin "to explore the possibility of issuing tax exempt bonds" to restructure the college's long term debt and to take advantage of lower interest rates. Hugh Dickens of Carey said such a move could save \$200,000 in interest. The commission approved such an investigation.

Blue Mountain College reported a 1986-87 enrollment of 344, an increase over the 319 of the previous year. Carey reported a total enrollment for all of its programs of 3,093, with a full time equivalent of 1,573. MC reported 3,169 for fall enrollment as of Sept. 18. Fall enrollment at Clarke is 128 Clarke students, 52 MC at Clarke students, and 14 special students. This does not include 70 sub-collegiate

(Continued on page 11)

WMU adds Monica Keathley as state BYW consultant

Monica Keathley is the new Baptist Young Women consultant for the Woman's Missionary Union of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Keathley

First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg. She has also been associational Acteens director. A native of Poplar Bluff, Mo., she

is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

Miss Keathley was a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso, 1977-85, doing student work at the University of Ouagadougou.

Earlier she was a minister of music and youth at First Church, Cuba, Mo., and was a missionary Journeyman to Ghana, West Africa, 1970-72.

Her father, Ervin Keathley, is director of music for the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Black work pioneer leaves Mission Board

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Willie Simmons, a modern-day pioneer in attracting blacks to foreign missions, has resigned to return to bivocational church work in California.

Simmons was head of the newly formed black church relations section of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and worked with some of the 800 to 1,000 black churches and 300,000 blacks in the convention.

He will return to Los Angeles, where he will work as an electric station operator for a power company and will be pastor of a church. He intends to get more black churches in the California area involved in foreign missions.

Milestones in Simmons' efforts include the recruiting of 45 blacks to serve as short-term volunteers on the mission field, the development of a network of black church ties to the board and three pastors in Illinois, Texas and California working to inform and recruit blacks.

Another milestone was the board's establishment of an endowment fund to help black seminary students who sense a clear call to foreign missions. It also will help black volunteers travel overseas. Simmons also has encouraged more blacks to give to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget which supports missions, evangelism, and education worldwide.

The board not only will replace Simmons with another black by early 1987, but it also is creating an ethnic relations section to work with the 2,500 Hispanic churches across the conven-

tion, said Harlan Spurgeon, board vice president for human resources.

Simmons will continue in California to draw blacks toward foreign missions. "My goal is to get blacks involved in all of the 107 countries" where Southern Baptists have missionaries, he said.

Through Simmons' efforts, black churches are raising \$115,000 for the William W. Colley Building. This three-family housing unit at the board's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va., was named in honor of a black missionary appointed by the board in 1874.

"Not many people know that blacks have been involved in missions since the early days of the convention, way back in 1845," Simmons said. During the first 35 years of the convention, the board appointed 48 blacks to Africa.

Then, for an 85-year span ending in 1965, no blacks were appointed. The feeling was that American blacks might "stir up the nationals or influence them" in the wrong way, he explained.

Only two blacks had been appointed in modern times until Simmons joined the staff. Now, three are on the field and two more are headed to the field.

Blacks have been interested and concerned all along about foreign missions, Simmons noted. They just needed to hear of the opportunities and that the board "is 100 percent committed to appointing all black Southern Baptists and other ethnics who qualify," he said.

Eric Miller writes for the FMB.

Baptist Memorial moves execs to system level

MEMPHIS — In a move to define more formally areas of responsibility, four executives of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis and four hospital-based programs were moved to Baptist Memorial Health Care System, according to President Joseph H. Powell.

Joining Powell as officers of the system were senior vice presidents Charles R. Baker, Maurice W. Elliott, and Roger Struble, and first vice president Al B. King.

Hospital programs moved to the system level were communications, health services research, human resources and marketing.

Baker will serve as chief financial officer, corporate secretary-treasurer, primary operating officer of Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation, and administrative liaison for medical financial services, denominational relations, and human resources.

Elliott will serve as administrative liaison for communications, marketing, health services research and community relations, and oversee design and construction and governmental relations.

Struble will serve as primary operating officer for Baptist

Memorial Health Care Development Corp. with specific duties in regional and affiliate hospital relationships, corporate development, and corporate services.

King will serve as the primary operating officer for the Baptist Memorial Ambulatory Services Corp., Baptist Memorial Home Health Care, and National Health Technology Corp., a taxable entity.

The health care system, owned by state Baptist conventions in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee, was formed in 1981 to provide the organizational flexibility necessary to give optimum health care in the 1980s and beyond.

Clearly, sustained habitual hate in all its forms is destructive. Harboring resentments, animosities, jealousies, and petty grievances can kill you. They should be eliminated from the mind and heart if there is to be sound mental, emotional, and physical health. Love, that much abused word, takes on new meaning and performs a new function. It is apparently as necessary to good health as is keeping the body clean and properly nourished.



Missionaries meet in Chile

Southern Baptist missionary representatives serving in Chile met together during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist missionary representatives serving in Chile, at the Baptist Seminary in Santiago, Chile, July 14-24. Alton McEachern, pastor of F.B.C., Greensboro, N.C., was speaker. Shown with McEachern are Mr. and Mrs. Vic Bowman, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Graves, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Racey. L to R, front row: McEachern, Bowman, Graves, Racey. Back row: Martha Bowman, Marilyn Graves, Annette Racey. Bowman, from Pelahatchie, is former pastor of Cross Roads Church, Graves, Starkville and Ripley, is former pastor of Marion, F.B.C. Racey, Biloxi, is former pastor of Union Church, Seminary.



Kittiwake Church constituted

Special services were held Sept. 14 in Pass Christian to constitute the Kittiwake Baptist Church. The church was established as a mission of First, Long Beach in January, 1981. Early services were held at the Gospel Singers of America building in Pass Christian under the leadership of Michael Hutchinson, pastor, and David Spencer, pastor, First Church, Long Beach. Hutchinson has since gone to Togo as a foreign missionary. The current pastor is Tim Miller, a student at New Orleans Seminary and son of former Mississippi pastor, J. B. Miller state mission offering funds. The church building sits on the old Kittiwake Assembly grounds.

Special guests who attended the service included former members of Kittiwake, members of Long Beach First Church, Mrs. E. O. Hunt, former owner of the Kittiwake property, Bobby Perry, director of missions for the Gulf Coast Association, and Spencer, who brought the message. Mrs. Lois Hicks, a charter member, read a history of the church's progress. "The Kittiwake Church is strong, active, committed to missions and evangelism, and debt-free," reports Spencer.

Baptist schools face major faculty loss

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist colleges are facing a major turnover of faculty members who will retire within the next five years, according to a group of Baptist college deans and academic vice presidents.

Academic representatives from 13 Southern Baptist colleges met in Nashville, Tenn., recently to air concerns and seek ways to recruit new faculty members.

The meeting, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Education Commission, was necessitated by the Sept. 30 retirement of Howard G. Kirksey, part-time placement consultant since 1975.

Kirksey has been responsible for finding applicants for the commission's placement registry, a major source used by Baptist colleges in finding qualified professors who identify with the concerns of a Christian institution.

The placement registry is not an employment agency. It emphasizes provision of names of individuals with specific qualifications colleges need.

A continued effort to find prospective faculty members is an imperative, said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission. Walker estimated between 20 and 50 percent of faculty members at various Southern Baptist colleges will retire within five years.

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the SBC Education Commission.

Health workers are killed in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — First Baptist Church in Managua, Nicaragua, held a memorial service Sept. 11 for Baptist health worker Nestor Antonio Castilblanco and three other men reportedly killed by contra guerrillas.

Surviving family members told representatives of Provalencia, the medical relief agency of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, that about 100 armed men came into San Jose de la Mula, an isolated mountain area in the province of Matagalpa, late on the night of July 31.

The men abducted Castilblanco, his brothers Daniel and Filemon, and a brother-in-law, Jesus Barrera. Reports said the armed band also took clothing and valuables from each of the four men's homes and burned one home to the ground. One account added the band ransacked a small Baptist clinic operated by Castilblanco.

A search party found the bodies of the four abducted men the next morning. The bodies had multiple stab wounds and bore evidence of torture, witnesses said.

Motives for the killings remain unclear. Contra guerrilla spokesman consistently have denied charges that they kill or torture civilians. But they often accuse CEPAD officials and other religious workers of pro-government activities.

Scores stop at Fair tent to hear the wordless book

By Anne W. McWilliams

"Want to come in and hear the story of our wordless book?" The man, Merle Rader, a 74-year-old Missouri Baptist in a Texas hat, stood at the door of the yellow and red striped tent at the state fair last week, inviting children in. Children went in to hear, and so did many adults.

Inside, volunteers told the story. Sally Stevens of Pelahatchie Baptist Church spent more hours there than any other local person. Her husband, Howard, also helped, as well as several volunteers from First Baptist Church, Jackson, and Vernon Roth, coordinator of this fair ministry.

"I'll start with this gold page which reminds me of the streets of heaven . . ." Sally said to two boys in their early teens. She held up a small book. "This black page reminds me of sin." Since there can be no sin in heaven, she went on, "the red page reminds me that Jesus' blood was shed that I might be forgiven." She continued, "The white page reminds me that when I receive Jesus as Saviour he washes away my sin . . . The green cover of my book reminds me to grow more like the Lord Jesus." With each page of the wordless book, she quoted Scriptures presenting the plan of salvation. She asked the boys if they were sorry for their sins, if they believed Jesus had died for their sins, and if they would like to pray with her, and to receive Jesus as their Savior. They said yes.

The tent's activities were sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, which will next year mark its 50th anniversary. Vernon Roth, national coordinator of fair ministries for the CEF, said, "I am not there to promote an organization, but to win souls."

Through 2 p.m. Wed., Oct. 8, of this year's fair, "there have been 1,145 professions of faith," Roth said, "Today, nearly 100 have included 77 children and 14 adults."

Roth took the names and addresses of those who responded, as well as their comments. He said he would give to local churches for follow-up.

"We emphasize need to grow in

Christ," he said, "and we offer Bible correspondence courses to people of all ages."

The gift, offered at the door and given to each as he or she leaves the tent, is "The Roman Road" or some other Scripture portion.

Blacks and whites, children and adults, during the fair had responded to the invitation to accept Jesus, Roth said.

"Of four teens who came in together, one said she was not saved. The others said they were. This one accepted Jesus, and the next night came back bringing her parents to hear the message. Another day two boys, about 12, accepted Jesus. They went outside and practically dragged their father back in, one holding each arm. He listened and made a decision, too, to accept Jesus." One girl went and brought her sister. Next day they brought their mother. Many of them, he said, believe that you are saved by your works. One black girl said she thought she was already saved, that she had quit wearing pants and started serving the church. After she heard the story from the wordless book, she decided that she was not saved, but that she wanted to be.

A man and his wife came in with four children. The father said, "No, I am not saved, but I want to be."

Sometimes they refuse.

One boy said, "I want to be saved, but today is not the time." "How do you know?" Roth asked him, "Let's try it and see if it works." The boy prayed, and then said, "It works!"

Employees who travel with the fairs also have listened and responded to the story.

Once, in another fair, two Mexicans, mistook the tent for a fortuneteller's booth. They asked, "Can you tell our future?" He answered, "I'm not a fortuneteller, but I can tell you something about your future," and he began to talk to them about heaven, and the way to get there.

Vernon Roth was a Kansas farmer before he began work with Child Evangelism Fellowship 26 years ago. He worked in Kansas, Colorado, and

Missouri before he became nationwide coordinator for the fair ministries.

He said he has been to as many as 58 fairs in one year, plus some small carnivals. In the record year of 1972, he reported 14,000 professions of faith as a result of the tent ministries and 3,000 in other places, or a total of 17,000.

This is the seventh year the CEF has sponsored the ministry at the Mississippi State Fair. In 1984, Roth said, "there were 2,558 professions of faith, and in 1983, there were 3,120."

Roth said that he is a Baptist by doctrine and was ordained as a deacon when he was in Colorado. He and his wife and daughter, Debra, a college junior, live in Whitewater, Kansas. The Fellowship is a faith work, supported by gifts from churches and individuals.

Volunteers who help out with the witnessing participate in a training session. One by-product of this has often been that they continue to use their knowledge later, in being better witnesses. "We want to help others become better soulwinners," said Roth. A group of teens from Alta Woods Methodist Church in Jackson who heard the presentation came back asking to hear the story again, so they could use it in their witnessing.

"One grandmother said, 'I want to try.' Oh, if I could just win one! She won a 71-year-old man and his grandson and then won 50 out of the next 53 she talked with. They were all accepting the Lord and she kept saying 'This is wonderful!'"

In some cities, said Roth, he turned the ministry over to local Southern Baptist churches and let them go ahead with it, recruit the volunteers, and do the training and the witnessing.

This year's fair is over, but for next year, he said, "We invite Southern Baptists to come and participate in the sharing." Anyone who wants to do that can contact Sally Stevens at Pelahatchie, or write Vernon Roth at Box 97, Whitewater, Kansas 67154.



Merle Rader invites a girl in to hear the story of the wordless book.



Sally Stevens of Pelahatchie shows the wordless book to three Jackson boys, Chad Shealy, Woodville Heights Baptist Church; Doug Smith and Jay Houston, both from Van Winkle Baptist Church. All three said they are Christians already. Jay's T-shirt proclaims, "Jesus loves you."



Children from Westview Baptist Church, Jackson, listen as Vernon Roth quotes verses from his marked New Testament.



Shotwell, Bob Edd and Smith, Ralph M., *Helping Churches Grow*; Broadman, Nashville, TN., 96 pp.

This book is another in the Broadman Leadership series. The authors, as listed above, are pastor and minister of education respectively of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Tex. In the foreword, Harry Piland says "Practical help for churches to accomplish their mission through the Sunday School and other church organizations literally leaps from these pages. This book should be used by pastors, staff, and laypersons across our nation. This book should be

read, given much thought, and then applied. This book gives you the basics, describes them, and tells you how to apply them."

The theme throughout the book is the importance of the Sunday School in church growth. The same principles found in other "church-growth" books are found in this book. In addition to these principles, the authors share their experiences as they have observed the growth of their church.

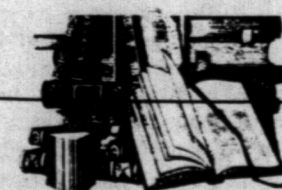
In chapter six, the pastor says two areas he feels are vital in reaching people are what he calls "Reaching the Youngest and Oldest." By this he is referring to the preschool and senior adults. He says "A Sunday

School gives its love through its ministry in the preschool division and its care of senior adults." The pastor goes on to say "I believe the preschool is the most important of all divisions in the Sunday School." Also, "Make your preschool division a showplace of the church. Spare no expense in making the rooms clean, bright, and beautiful."

This is a good book with much practical help. If you have already read other "church-growth" books you won't find anything new in this one. If you haven't, this is a good book to buy.

— Reviewed by Gregory E. Potts, pastor, Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia.

Book Reviews



White, Mary, *Growing Together*; Colorado Springs, Colo., Navpress, pp. 141., \$4.95.

No doubt many parents have made New Year's commitments to have a family devotional on a regular basis. No sooner do they start than they realize the difficulty involved. How do you keep the children interested? What is the best time? These are questions many parents have probably asked themselves and possibly have come up with no answer.

In this book the author seeks to help parents discover new and creative ways to have a family devotional. The book would be a help to any parent

struggling with how to develop and maintain a good family devotion. — Reviewed by Gregory E. Potts, pastor, Bluff Springs, Magnolia.

— Powell, Paul W., *Jesus is for Now*; Broadman, Nashville, 125 pp. This is simply a book of sermons by Paul Powell.

The book is easy to read, contains some good stories, sermon illustrations, and some good sermons. I am partial to a good outline and this book contains several well outlined sermons.

Basically a good book. — Reviewed by Gregory E. Potts, pastor, Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia.

Adjustments necessary for BJCPA, committee says

(Continued from page 3)
held brainstorming sessions before coming up with three "basic assumptions" and two "basic issues."

The committee also voted unanimously to hold all of its fact-finding session in open meetings, although it reserved to itself the right to formulate its conclusions in executive sessions.

The action which created the committee also instructed it to make an interim report to the February 1987 meeting of the Executive Committee and a final report at the Executive Committee's meeting just prior to the 1987 annual meeting next June in St. Louis. Under convention procedures, matters referred to the Executive Committee must be reported back to messengers at the subsequent annual meeting.

In addition to adopting its assumptions and issues, the fact-finding committee also voted to meet at least twice more, once in Washington, with the staff of the BJCPA, committee members, and any others who would like to provide information, and again in Nashville, with executives of SBC agencies and other members of the SBC's Public Affairs Committee, which is the means whereby the SBC relates to the BJCPA.

The three basic assumptions adopted by the committee were:

— "We are united in our belief Southern Baptists should have a presence in Washington, D.C."

— "We are united in our support and defense of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment provision which states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'"

— "We are united in our desire that the Southern Baptist Convention have the most effective and efficient voice possible in Washington."

The two basic issues phrased as questions were:

— "Is the Baptist Joint Committee, or can the Baptist Joint Committee, be the most effective and efficient

voice of Southern Baptists in Washington?"

"What are the factors to be considered in the establishment of 'an exclusive Southern Baptist Convention presence' in Washington?"

Young said the committee will attempt to find the answers to eight secondary questions on the first issue and seven subsidiary inquiries on the second issue.

Among the issues to be investigated concerning the present organization are such questions as how the BJCPA carries out its present assignment; how much policy is set by the committee, how much by the staff and how much by individuals; how much influence does the SBC have in staff selection, direction or elimination; and how does the BJCPA portray — and discern — the position of the SBC on various issues.

Also to be considered is whether a joint voice in Washington is more effective than a single voice. The BJCPA's nine member bodies include more than 24 million Baptists.

The question of how the SBC relates to the Joint Committee also will be studied. Currently, the SBC appoints a 15-member Public Affairs Committee, 10 of whose members are selected by virtue of the offices they hold as executives of SBC agencies.

Another question is: "How can the Baptist Joint Committee leadership be confrontational when necessary on issues without being combative toward individuals and groups and without becoming politically aligned or partisan within their respective Baptist denominations?"

The fact-finding committee also determined it should study the implications of establishing an SBC office in the nation's capital, such as "moral obligations" to the BJCPA, a proposed timetable, funding, personnel, possible structures, relationships, and the drawing of a program statement which would sort through the problems of overlapping the responsibilities of the BJCPA and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Com-

mission, which deals with moral, social, and political issues other than the separation of church and state and religious liberty.

In addition to drawing up the scope of its work, the fact-finding committee also named three subcommittees to begin the process of gathering information.

Chairman Young and members Paul Pressler, an appeals court judge from Houston, and Frank Ingraham, an attorney from Nashville, were deputized to attend the October meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee and its subsequent Religious Liberty Conference.

Ingraham and James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, were assigned to begin looking into determining what information should be sought and what sources should be included.

James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, were assigned to collecting the history of the BJCPA and overseeing an "integrated review" of materials, including newspaper articles.

In addition to Young, Pressler, Ingraham, Yates, and Robinson, other members of the committee are Carolyn Miller, a homemaker from Huntsville, Ala., and Frank Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark. Jones, chairman of the Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, and David Maddox, a real estate developer from Fullerton, Calif., and chairman of the Executive Committee, are ex-officio members of the study group.

Young asked any person who wishes to provide information or make comment on the work of the fact-finding committee to write to him at First Southern Baptist Church, 3100 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85017, or to Yates, the vice chairman, at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 12, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.

Dan Martin is BP News Editor.

BJCPA approves new representation plan

By Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BP) — A new plan which would revise the way nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada are represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was approved during its fall meeting.

The plan, which would increase Southern Baptist participation from 15 members to 18 members, was approved with only two negative votes after an effort was made to refer it back to the three-member study committee that proposed the revisions.

Samuel L. Currin, a U.S. attorney in Raleigh, N.C., and a Southern Baptist representative on the BJCPA, made a motion to refer the plan back to the three-member Study Committee on Baptist Joint Committee Representation to allow study of the possibility "of membership based on financial contributions."

Currin told the 29 other committee members present for the meeting, "I don't believe we can sell to Southern Baptists a plan that has us contributing 90 percent of the funding and having only a third of the representation."

The plan was proposed by the three-member committee, made up of William Cober, associate general secretary for national ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.; Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; and John Binder, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference.

In presenting the plan, Cober, the study committee chairman, said the group "worked harmoniously at seeking equity and maintaining responsible and fair representation of member communions."

"We believe it is critical that we maintain a united witness of nine great Baptist communions and that speaking on behalf of our nine groups has real power," he added.

Cober said the study committee adopted three basic principles: "First, each member denomination shall be adequately represented. Second, no denomination shall have more than one-third of the members of a 54-member Baptist Joint Committee. Third, there shall be a relationship between financial contributions and the number of denominational representatives."

The plan automatically allows each Baptist group one member. Additional representatives are gained by contributing to the BJCPA operating budget. It provides that for each quarter of a percent of the budget — about \$1,150 — contributed, member bodies gained one member, up to a total of eight beyond the first representative. Then, for each additional five percent of the operating budget contributed, another member is gained, up to a total of nine beyond the first nine.

The only body which would be entitled to the full complement of 18 members would be the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently the SBC is entitled to 15 members. Elder said the American Baptist Convention currently is entitled to 15 members but has only 11 serving. Under the plan,

the ABC would decrease to nine members.

Although the BJCPA constitution allows a 72-member board, it has only 42 members currently under appointment. Some bodies do not appoint their fully allotted membership and others — like the ABC — voluntarily have reduced the number of persons they appoint to the BJCPA.

Currin added he is "not saying Southern Baptists have to have 90 percent of the representation. What I am asking is that the committee go back and draw up a proposal which takes contributions into account."

Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist representative from Birmingham, Ala., raised the question of issues: "As I talk to Southern Baptists, they don't understand giving Cooperative Program funds to the Baptist Joint Committee when the SBC has taken a stand on issues and the Baptist Joint Committee comes out directly opposite. There is a concern that mainstream thinking of Southern Baptists is not being represented by the Baptist Joint Committee. Southern Baptists don't understand that and it is a real concern."

Cober told Currin he believes "there is a real advantage in saying that the Baptist Joint Committee represents nine Baptist bodies and 24 million members." He added he does not favor a "Southern Baptist committee where a few of us are allowed to participate once in a while."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he would "hate to see the matter of representation boil down to a matter of finances. In missions involvement, we have never gauged that whoever had the money got the votes."

Elder said Baptist work always has featured "Baptists in areas of strong resources paying the cost of work in weaker areas."

C. J. Malloy Jr., general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, said he has "greatly appreciated" working with the BJCPA and said if his convention had funds, he would put more into the work of the Joint Committee. "But we don't have it," he said.

"I know that \$18,000 across the past six years doesn't sound like much to you, but it is a lot to us. We are glad to make an effort to contribute, but if this is going to be a Southern Baptist committee working on Southern Baptist causes, then I am not going to participate. If it is a committee where there is participation by all of the other groups, then I will continue to work to give as much as we can."

After Currin's motion was rejected, committee members voted to approve the new representation plan with only Currin and Smith voting against it. They had been joined in the effort to have it referred by J. I. Ginnings, a Southern Baptist representative from Wichita Falls, Texas. When it came to a vote on the plan, Ginnings told the committee he would vote for it. "It appears to me this (participation in the BJCPA) is more of a Southern Baptist problem," he said. "I don't believe this issue will be resolved here. I am going to vote for it."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

BJCPA voices concern about textbooks

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has adopted a resolution expressing concern about textbooks used in the nation's schools.

The resolution notes there "is substantial evidence available from recent studies that many textbooks used in the nation's schools virtually ignore religion, thereby distorting the historical record, denigrating religion, and depriving students of knowledge of America's religious

heritage."

It calls on "textbook authors and publishers to stop rewriting history and to correct this indefensible distortion of the role of religion in American life" and urges textbook committees "to approve only textbooks that honestly and accurately deal with religion's role in our society."

In other matters on the BJCPA's October agenda, the committee:

— Approved a salary study which found that wages paid workers of the

Washington-based agency are below equivalent salaries paid workers in the nation's capital. The study recommends adjustments be made as funds are available.

— Adopted a proposed — or "asking" — budget of \$641,710 for 1987-88. The budget includes funding to be requested from the constituent groups, including \$457,485 from the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC will not adopt its 1987-88 budget until the 1987 annual meeting in June.

support strict enforcement of obscenity laws as provided for by the U.S. Supreme Court in my community and across America."

Coalition solicits petitions against porn

CINCINNATI, Ohio (EP) — The National Coalition Against Pornography (N-CAP) and Focus on the Family are soliciting petitions against pornography in a campaign involving

full-page newspaper advertisements. Readers are urged to sign and return a form stating "Yes, I am for freedom and against child pornography and violent, degrading pornography. I

Home Mission Board says no aid to female pastors

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board affirmed a long-standing policy that ordination is not a requirement for missionary service, but they have voted not to give future financial support to any woman who is pastor of a local church.

The 85-member board approved a report from a 10-member committee assigned to study the board's policies concerning ordination during its October meeting.

About a dozen board members voted against the new policy after a motion to delete the provision prohibiting funds to women pastors was defeated.

In other major actions, the board adopted a motion calling for a major emphasis on reaching the cities of America with the gospel, heard a progress report from a new search committee appointed to nominate a president for the board, adopted a record \$73.2 million 1987 budget and gave a standing ovation to a plea for unity by the agency's acting president.

The new policy on ordination permits appointment of ordained women as missionaries and endorsement of ordained women as chaplains, but it prohibits future use of mission board funds to support any woman as pastor of a local church.

Although the new policy moves the board to a slightly more conservative position, several members of the ordination study committee agreed it was a compromise that was the best the committee could recommend.

The study committee recognized ordination is a local-church prerogative, but it acknowledged the board has a responsibility to the Southern Baptist Convention which elects it. "We must be sensitive to the sentiments expressed by the Southern Baptist Convention," the committee said.

M. O. Owens, retired Baptist pastor from Gastonia, N.C., who presented the committee report, said he was referring to a resolution adopted by the SBC in 1984 in Kansas City, Mo. The controversial resolution opposed

ordination of women for service in "pastoral functions."

The action in October marked the third time in two years the board had affirmed its policy that ordination is a local-church matter and should not be considered in the appointment of missionaries. This policy was reaffirmed in the March board meetings of 1984 and 1985.

In their report to the board, the committee recommended no changes be made in the board's relationship to ordained women already serving.

Opposition to the committee's recommendations came from Jim Strickland, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cartersville, Ga. Strickland said the proposal would compromise the board's integrity on the autonomy of the local church.

"We say on one hand that it (ordination) is the prerogative of the local church, but on the other hand, we are voting economic reprisals against the local church which believes God has led them to call a woman pastor, if this is approved," argued Strickland. "We are crossing a line here that there is no precedent for in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. We dare not approve this."

In a count of raised hands, only about 15 board members voted for Strickland's motion to delete the sentence which would have prohibited financial support to a church with a woman pastor.

Earlier during the meeting, Owens had offered another motion adopted by the board urging the staff to "explore to the fullest the task of winning the cities of America to Christ."

Bob Banks, executive vice president who has functioned as interim president since the resignation of William G. Tanner in June, told the board the staff is planning a major presentation at the March, 1987, board meeting on the challenge of reaching the cities. Banks also called for unity and reconciliation among board members.

He read a letter from a Florida church's Woman's Missionary Union saying the controversy in the SBC had caused so much confusion that they

found it difficult "to concentrate on our prayer life, our service, and our giving when the focus has become so blurred."

Baptist leaders, they wrote, have been giving lay people "irrelevant and divergent signals that only con-

fuse those of us in the ranks... There is a distrust of religious leaders because they have lost their identity as spiritual leaders, and a distrust of Baptist agencies," the letter said.

Banks urged board members to care enough and dare to become an example of reconciliation to the entire convention. "The needs are too great, the opportunities too important and the time factor too critical for us not to make every conceivable effort to pull together in moving forward to do the work that the Father has given us to do," he said. "There are issues. But the great overriding issue is a lost and dying nation, a lost and dying world."

Troy Morrison of Montgomery, Ala., chairman of a recently appointed search committee to nominate a new president, made a brief progress report but brought no recommendations. Morrison, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist Convention, said he believes God can bring healing and unity to the board.

Morrison said the new committee "would not be dominated or intimidated by any special interest group."

Morrison said recommendations or resumes sent to the original committee must be resubmitted in order to be considered. All records in the hands of the original committee, he said, have been destroyed. Recommendations should be sent to Morrison at P. O. Box 11870, Montgomery, Ala., 36198.

Another committee appointed in August to study whether the board's interfaith witness department should be a part of the missions or evangelism organizational structure reported it needed more time to complete its work because the issue is more complex than it first appeared to be.

Jim Newton writes for HMB.

Thursday, October 16, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

McDonough will be nominated executive director in Virginia

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will be nominated as executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia during its annual meeting Nov. 11-12 in Richmond.

The association's General Board cleared the way for the action when it unanimously approved the recommendation of its Executive Director Search Committee Oct. 7 in Richmond.

If elected by messengers to the November meeting, McDonough, 50, will become executive director-elect of both the association and the General Board Jan. 1, 1987, and assume full responsibilities March 1.

He would succeed Richard M. Stephenson, who will retire Feb. 28, 1987, after 19 years as executive of the 600,000-member fellowship of Southern Baptist churches in Virginia.

"I have allowed my name to be put before you because Joan and I feel that God is leading in this process," he said. "I am not here because the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has caused me to want to 'jump ship' or because I do not find my present ministry fulfilling."

After promising to address four concerns — missions and evangelism, effective churches, healthy ministers

and cooperative relationships — if elected executive director, McDonough described his position in the eight-year-old SBC theological and political debate.

"Theologically, I am a conservative. However, I am not a fundamentalist," he said.

He later noted he considers himself a "moderate-conservative" because he holds several strong convictions, including beliefs in the inspired word of God, religious liberty, church-state separation, freedom of Biblical interpretation, and cooperation.

McDonough added, "I wish to make it very clear that although my convictions will obviously affect my decision making, I believe an executive director must be the servant of all the people and diligently try to be fair and open to all."

A native of Mount Vernon, Texas, McDonough has held church staff positions in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas, and several posts at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He has been executive vice president at the SBC Executive Committee since 1981.

He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, and New Orleans Seminary.

Dilday is associate editor of the Religious Herald, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

BTN Brings You Live Coverage of the Foreign Mission Teleconference

Missionaries from all around the world will share testimonies about their work during the annual **Foreign Mission Teleconference** November 22 from 12:00-1:30 pm (CST). Don't miss the LIVE, unscrambled transmission.** You'll receive the opportunity to call in with any questions or comments you may have.

Other Special BTN Programs for November

Thanksgiving with the Emersons

This 30-minute drama, being aired November 3 at 11:15 am and on November 6 at 3:00 pm (CST), illustrates the meaning of Thanksgiving when a small crisis brings a family and their friends closer together.

PLUS—The first installment of

Who's Doing What with BTN?

These are actual firsthand experiences of BTN subscribers who are successfully and productively using the messages. It is being aired November 3 at 11:45 am and on November 12 at 3:15 pm (CST).

BTN Subscription Information

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CT leaders launch four-year project to tell pastors of training options

By Terri Lackey

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — When one-third of the 37,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention report having no Church Training program, somebody needs to do something about it, national Church Training leaders determined.

They launched a controlled four-year project in August to go into the offices and homes of pastors whose churches have no Church Training program. They are telling pastors about the many training options, and if the pastors are interested, they provide information on how to start a Church Training program.

A statewide new-start project, the

brainchild of state Church Training directors and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training department, already has begun to make its mark, said Steve Williams, growth consultant in the board's Church Training department.

The pilot project state was Alabama, said Williams, who said about 300 pastors were contacted and visited during one week in August by 38 consultants enlisted to branch out into all areas of the state.

Of the pastors contacted, 127 agreed as of Sept. 10 to start a new Church Training program, and 33 already

have training programs, Williams said.

"We have never done a project like this before," Williams said. "The response was overwhelmingly positive. Most pastors were a little surprised that we would take the time to come see them instead of vice versa. Lots were surprised to learn there were so many different ways to have Church Training."

He said many pastors were unaware of equipping centers, "survival kits" and other materials provided by the Church Training department.

Terri Lackey writes for the Sunday School Board.

Booneville looks for balance in missions life

By Tim Nicholas

First Church, Booneville, is looking for balance in its missions life. It's a church that is "balancing outside work with something here at home," according to its pastor Bill Duncan.

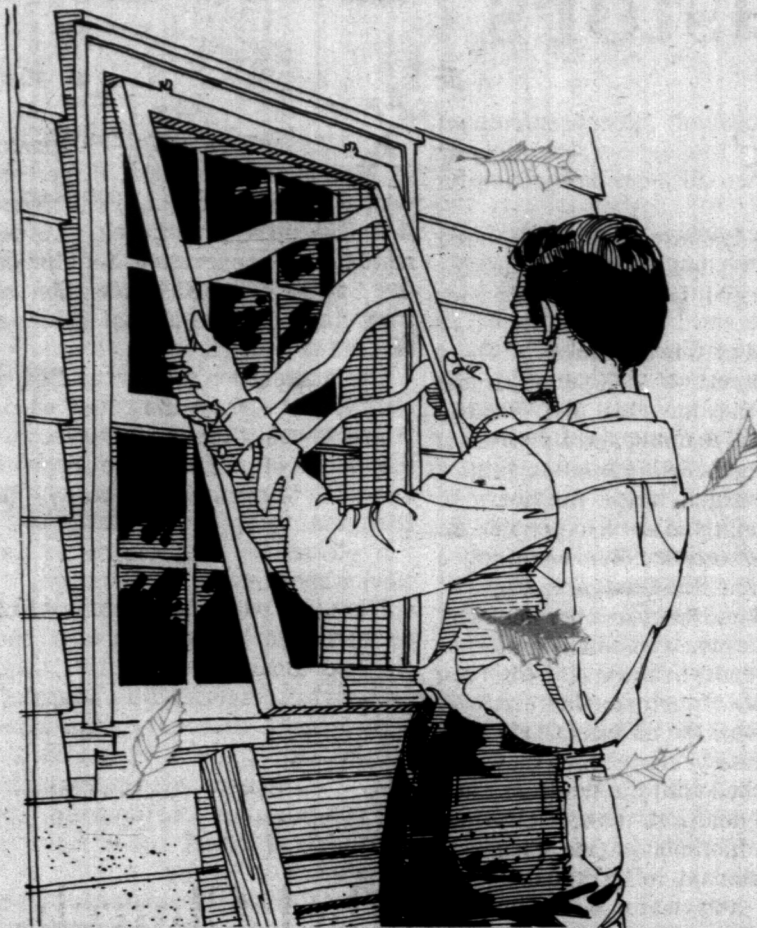
The north Mississippi church is so intent at making missions involvement a priority, it budgeted \$10,000 this past year and formed a missions committee to oversee its spending. The committee decides on its projects and invites the church to participate. "We're sort of a clearing house," says a member.

For instance, when the committee, the members of which prefer to remain unnamed in this story, was formed last year, they asked church members who are home care nurses to find a number of potential ministry objects.

One was an old woman who lived in a rat-infested house out in the county. The woman, suffering from leukemia, refused to go into a nursing home, but the only food she had in the house was peanut butter and jelly and whatever the nurse brought in. That was last winter and the woman heated the house with wood scraps, but the wind whistled through cracks in the door.

The church's first contact was when the missions committee chairman took his Sunday School class out to clean the house. They cleaned out the dead rats, placed plastic over the windows, and started looking in on her more or less regularly. So, before she died a couple of months ago, she had a bit of exposure to a group of people who cared.

This past miserably hot summer the nurses alerted the church group to the need of fans in some of the homes. A number of fans were donated which at least helped stir the air a bit in those homes.



A volunteer group traveled to Wamego, Kans., for a church construction project this summer. Afterward, a friend of a missions committee member, who is a Southern Baptist, asked her "Why did you go all the way to Kansas to build a church when there are churches in the area that need help?"

The committee member explained the process of working through the Home Mission Board and the fact that the group has helped locally, too. Commented the committee member, "It's amazing how many of our own Southern Baptist people are not that familiar with mission work and what it's all about."

That church which received the help has four families who are already planning their own mission trip next year. "Y'all are getting all the blessing," they told the Booneville people. And some of the men from the Booneville church who went to Kansas are helping with a building project at Osborne Creek Church, where Duncan also is pastor.

The group doesn't look to see if the recipient is a Southern Baptist before offering help.

For seven years a house in Booneville waited to be bricked. The wife had a stroke and her husband took her home to care for her. All that time a load of bricks sat in his yard.

He hadn't either the money or the time to do the work.

Committee members and the pastor checked with the man who said that there were others who needed help more than he. Turned out the woman's physician was in the church and talked the man into allowing the church to let him supervise the job. Every class in the church took up money for the mortar and other expenses. And members handled the bricking completely under the supervision of a man whose dream had been delayed seven years.

One non-Baptist minister whom Duncan calls "off-beat," takes unmarried women and abused women into his home in nearby Baldwyn. "He's also feeding another 15 families in the area," says Duncan. Another 27 families from the county went there and received a week's worth of groceries.

With 22 women and children in his home ministry which he calls the "Tree of Life," his refrigerator went out. The missions committee of first, Booneville, gave him \$500 to either repair his refrigerator or get another. Duncan reported to the committee that the man had, with that \$500, gotten a freezer, a refrigerator, a four-door compartment refrigerator, and had his washer and dryer repaired.

Duncan has gotten two of these young mothers enrolled in the local junior college. He appealed to the committee to get help finding clothing for them while in school. Members agreed to begin a search for appropriate clothing.

Other projects the missions committee has approved:

*\$40 per month for a Brazilian seminary student;

*\$100 per month for the rest of the year to a Christian Service Corps couple in Sturgis, N.D.;

*ice cream about once a month for

a nursing home. The Acteens agreed to help with serving it;

*a \$700 piano for foreign missionaries John and Jean Jacobs in Trinidad.

Churchwide projects include a scripture distribution project for the whole city and a promise to send budget overages to the Foreign Mission Board at 40 percent and to the Home Mission Board at 20 percent.

"I think this is the mission of the church," says one missions committee member, "reaching out to people."

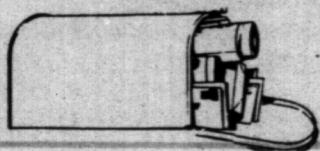
Another says she believes she's seen people become "visionary." She points to the scriptures that say where there is no vision the people perish. "We are responsible for one another as a church body," she says. But the vision works "when we can look out and see the needs of someone we've never known before and share Christ's love."

Adds Duncan, "We simply want to be involved in what's happening in the world." Echoes another missions committee member, "I feel incomplete without doing for others."

Help is available for developing missions committee

Churches interested in developing a church missions committee, or a missions development program, as it is now often called, can get help from the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Staffers in the department will help a church train its leaders in operating such a program and will help the church administer a needs survey. For details, write the department at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205 or phone 968-3800.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

"Source of power"

Editor:

Did you recognize in the letter published last week, "Source of power," that this is the basic issue that has divided Southern Baptist for years.

Serious Bible students know that the great truths are spiritually discerned. The Holy Spirit may use for our enlightenment the teachings and references found in concordances, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and countless other books that have been prepared by men and women of God down through the ages.

God used two of the best educated men of their time, Paul and Luke, to write most of the New Testament. Every book of the Bible was written by men inspired by God to address a

particular situation in the culture in which they lived. It was written originally in a language that we here in America do not speak. It is the translator's choice to select a word in English that best describes the word of another language that is being translated.

The person who hides God's word in his heart and thinks on him daily will want every study aid available and will be loved by God, be he theologian or the most ignorant person.

We need to pray as David did in the 51st Psalm that God will create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us.

Frances C. Parish
Silver Creek

Evolution/creation

Editor:

Readers of the Baptist Record need to know that there are positions other than yours on evolution (as expressed in an editorial of Sept. 11): positions that a Christian who is a Baptist can hold with confidence and assurance.

One is that the creation accounts in Genesis are not about the origin and development of the natural order. Rather, they are theological texts that present God as Creator and Redeemer. Thus creationism vs evolution is a non-issue.

Let the scientists slug it out among themselves in their journals and conferences to determine the merits of each. In the meantime, neither the church nor the courts should be dictating public school curriculum.

Finally, creationism vs evolution is a distraction of the church from its mission, reverencing God and redeeming persons.

Richard L. Conville
Hattiesburg

Care in calling staff

Editor:

May I use your paper to remind Southern Baptists to be very careful when calling staff members for their churches. Be sure they are Southern Baptist in belief and in practice.

This letter is promoted by a situation that has developed in one of our Baptist churches in our state. I was in that church several months ago and it was a normal, healthy, growing fellowship.

Then new staff was added and subtle changes began to occur. First came the easing out of SBC literature, then talk of cutting back on Cooperative Program giving. The type of music and its presentation was changed drastically.

The next step was that very unusual promotional gimmicks became a regular part of things.

In a recent service, there was a call to the altar for those who wanted to be healed by having the staff lay hands on them. At the conclusion of that service, there was another altar call for

those who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit — also with the staff laying hands on them. (I have tape of this.)

As these changes began to take place, one very courageous deacon dared to voice his opposition to what he felt had become a "carnival atmosphere in the house of God." A result of his opposition is that he was ousted as an active deacon, a man whose very life blood had gone into this church for many years.

This situation has split the church, divided families and taken the life savings of many.

Even if this church should sever its affiliation with Southern Baptists, what a loss for those who have for years invested their lives and resources in it. What a loss for the mother church who sponsored this fellowship as a mission. More importantly, what a loss to the cause of Christ!

Name withheld by request

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

3806 Monument Avenue

Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va. is as beautiful as any avenue I've seen in America. A double row of tall trees down the median is occasionally interrupted by a statue of someone like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, or Jefferson Davis. Another row of trees on each side sets off the grandeur of the restored old brick houses and apartment buildings. (Jackson's North State could once have given it competition.)

In such a handsome setting, at 3806 Monument, stands the headquarters of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. The seven-block walk from my hotel to that address Oct. 1, 2, and 3 was so nice I wouldn't mind doing that every day. It was my first visit to the Foreign Mission Board building; I found the receptionist, Beverly Massey, and other employees just as friendly and helpful as I had imagined they would be.

I had called the Board several times, asking various questions about Indy and Charles Whitten, missionaries to Argentina, Spain, and now Equatorial Guinea. (I'm collecting materials to write their biography.) One day Leland Webb, editor of *Commission*, said, "What you need to do is come here and read all the Whittens' correspondence with the Board. Edie Jeter, our archivist, would be the one to contact."

"All researchers using the materials must complete an application for access to resources," Edie wrote me. I filled in the application, was approved, and we agreed on dates. So here I was, amazed at all they had to offer. The archives and records center contains more than 1,000 linear feet of subject files. Some

of these are on microfilm. There are more than 200,000 still photograph resources (slides and negatives), and more than 5,000 audio and moving image resources (discs, tapes, films, and video cassettes.)

Besides taking advantage of all of this in the archives, I visited the research library, where Edie introduced me to Karen Hanks. Karen explained that by way of computer she could find the name and pertinent info about any one of the zillions of books listed by the Library of Congress.

For three days, from 8:30 until 12:30 and from 1:30 until 4:45, I spent most of my time at a desk near Edie's office in the archives, on the basement floor. (The door to the archives is kept locked day and night. Employees must know the combination, to enter.) Edie brought nine fat files of the Whittens' letters to me, usually two folders at the time. To make notes, I had to write with pencil, not a pen. (Anyone allowed to use a pen might forget and mark on one of the documents, I guess.) A typewriter is permissible, but I didn't take one. Edie xeroxed all pages I asked her to do. She threaded the microfilm machine for me, answered questions, and one day invited me to lunch with her and three others (Virginia Smith, Sharon Stone, Susan Morgan) at the Museum of Fine Arts. On the way back, she let me look briefly into the historic sanctuary of the city's First Baptist Church.

Edie, a young mother of two, said that she had been working for the Foreign Mission Board three months, having come there from a position at the Valentine Museum in downtown

Richmond. Her husband is a sports writer for an evening newspaper.

Since Indy Whitten was press representative and Charles Whitten mission treasurer during their years in Spain, their letters were many. I had to read fast, but it was fascinating. At five minutes to five on Friday I flipped over the final page.

Lunch on Thursday I ate with Betty Law, associate area director of Western South America. We went to Jasper's, where they specialize in salads and quiche. Betty and her husband, Tom, were appointed missionaries to Spain in the early 60s. They received orientation at Gulfshore Assembly, at Pass Christian. During their years in Spain they knew and worked with the Whittens. After Tom's death in 1980, Betty began work in Richmond. (One of her sons is a missionary to Paraguay.)

John Mills and Isam Ballenger kindly granted brief interviews. Mills is Director, West Africa, and Ballenger is Director for Europe and the Middle East.

Volunteers from Richmond churches help out at the Board, giving relief at the switchboard, giving guided tours of the building, etc. When I asked for a 15-minute abbreviated tour Friday afternoon on my break, my volunteer guide turned out to be none other than Mrs. Keith Parks.

I was happy to have the time with her, and also to see the chapel, the prayer room, the Nestorian Tablet from China, and the clock that shows what time it is anywhere in the world.

On Saturday, Ralph Peterson (designer of the "Geografun" maps we've been using on the Baptist

(Continued on page 11)



"I yam what I yam"

God sent the sunshine and the rain, and the potato vine grew . . . and grew . . . and grew. Three-year-olds at McDowell Road Church, Jackson, rooted the sweet potato, as a Sunday School project. Then the potato was moved outside, and vines went in every direction, finally totaling over 60 feet. Each child chose a part of the vine to plant at home. Pictured, are Nicole Moree, Leslie Anderson, Niki Martin, Shandy Dulaney, Collin Owens, Seth Duke, and Renee Jones.

Bethel Church, Liberty will celebrate 100th anniversary

Bethel Church, Liberty, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 19-26. Activities begin with a revival Oct. 19-22. Oct. 19 services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Oct. 20-22 services will begin at 7 p.m. Former pastor Edward Rollins will be the evangelist and Jim Dixon will direct the music. Saturday, Oct. 25 activities will begin at 2 p.m. with old fashioned games and fun for all ages. Evening services Oct. 25 will begin at 6 p.m. October 26 will be high attendance day for Sunday School. Morning worship services begin at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow. Shep Johnson is pastor.

Bethel was organized Oct. 25, 1886

in a one room school house located south of Liberty. They joined the Mississippi Association the following year. In 1890 land was donated for a church building and cemetery. A church building and new school house were constructed the same year.

By 1910, membership had grown to 129 and by 1911 a new building was completed. A Sunday School annex was added in 1946. An additional two-story annex was built in 1969. A parsonage was built in 1950 and is still in use today after extensive remodeling in 1980.

On January 11, 1978 the church (Continued on page 11)

SCRAPBOOK

Autumn wildflowers

I catch my breath at the beauty from God
Of a hillside covered in goldenrod
With clumps of lavender here and there
And black-eyed susans everywhere.

All of God's beauty keeps me in awe
I can't believe some of the wonder I saw

Dust

My Father God
How could You see
Some value in
This dust of me

When jewels surround
Your holy throne
And Paradise
Divine your home?

Yet fellowship
With me You plan,
Guess You don't mind
Dust on your hand.

—Mrs. D. F. Crowe
Greenville

When my life is at its lowest point
He sends me a Miracle, my life to anoint.

The wildflowers help when I stumble and fall
I cry and fret and he's there through it all.
I look at the wildflowers, and though I am weak,
I find strength, when his presence I seek.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

Words of life

The Bible's great pages in beauty unfold
A glorious message in truth and in love
Of the sweetest story that ever was told —
The story of Jesus who died for us all;
Of his awesome forgiveness for darkest of wrongs.
Though we've lain among pots begrimed with their soot
We shall be as the snowy feathers of doves
Burnished with silver and dusted with gold (Ps. 68:13).
Read through its pages — hear seraphims' songs
Soaring on thermals of ecstasy.
Read it and feast on the bread of its words,
Drink of its crystalline water of life.

—Monette M. Young
Jackson

Devotional

Fix your heart on God

By James A. Ruffin
Psalm 112:7

It was 4:22 a.m. The crashing thunder was so loud that it seemed to shake the house. Raindrops were pounding on the roof. The family awakened. The sound of a low moaning was heard coming from the direction of the front porch. Easing the front door open just a crack, they found the family pet, a German shepherd, who was big and brave in all circumstances, except storms.

Have you tried to convince a frightened dog that in spite of the storm everything will soon be all right? It is difficult to get an animal to change its thinking about wind, thunder, and lightning.

In difficult circumstances we, too, tend to slip into patterns of thinking that are self defeating, self condemning, unchanging, and fearful.

The psalmist says he will not be afraid when bad things come because his heart is fixed on God (Ps. 112:7). He is confidently relying on God. This is his mind set. This is his pattern of thinking.

Fix your heart on God! Focus your attention on him and confidently rely on him. This is the secret of security when we face the horrible experiences of life.

When you are disturbed, discouraged, or devastated, fix your heart on God and trust him to see you through. Through trial and turmoil, through difficult days and hard years, we need to remember that when we are yielded to God's purpose and plan we possess a security that cannot be threatened.

"The man who fears the Lord . . . will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord" (Psalm 112:1, 7 NIV).

James Ruffin is pastor, Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.



Ruffin

Miracle in Brazil is one for the (accounting) books

By Craig Bird

TERESINA, Brazil (BP) — When the Brazilian government went to war against inflation last February, the Baptist Society Clinic in Teresina was a prime candidate to be an early casualty.

Of course that wasn't the government's purpose but in the struggle to combat an annual inflation rate approaching 500 percent, the facility was caught between wage and price regulations and its own nonprofit structure.

Instead, a massive — and unexpected — surge in demand for the clinic's outpatient services took the clinic from near-bankruptcy to glowing fiscal health.

"Our story might not sound like a miracle to some folks," Missionary

Larry York from Alabama said. "But any hospital administrator who hears it will agree God had to have had a hand in it."

Late last February, by presidential decree, prices were frozen and salaries were adjusted. Most employees of the Baptist clinic qualified for increases of about 30 percent.

"We are nonprofit and don't turn anyone away for inability to pay," York explained. Despite the inflation, the clinic policy was to adjust charges only twice a year — in November and May.

In the four months since the last increase, inflation had ripped away at the clinic's financial base and it was clear the May adjustments would

come none too soon.

As he listened to the president explain the regulations, York, a self-described "calm person," bit off all his fingernails. That night, for the first time in his life, he took a tranquilizer.

His wife, Karen, wondered out loud if an increase in the volume of patients could be the answer, but York shrugged it off by saying, "You don't understand."

So, along with praying, York went over the books and the legal requirements for severance pay for the 12 employees he anticipated having to lay off and calculated the clinic had three months, at best, before the cash reserves were exhausted.

Karen mailed a request for prayers to "hundreds of people" who are on

the Yorks' newsletter mailing list and each day at the clinic's devotional time the situation was the focus of prayer.

A request for a variance from the program was buried in government red tap and the state Baptist convention had its own financial problems and couldn't provide monetary assistance.

In March York's "worse case" scenario was matched, figure-by-figure, by the actual financial postings and the clinic was eight weeks from closing its doors. In April came the miracle. Consultations with the staff doctors increased to 100 percent of capacity — a 45 percent increase — and fee payments for lab tests increased a staggering 85 percent.

York found himself announcing a second pay raise (in addition to the government-mandated one), hiring additional staff, and putting money aside for future needs.

Looking back York recognized God's hand in two decisions made before the price freeze. An earlier expansion "to give us years of growing room" was completed in time to house the increased patient flow, and for the first time the clinic had experimented with advertising in the telephone yellow pages, introducing them to numerous clients.

He has no doubt this miracle is one for the (accounting) books.

Craig Bird is a missionary journalist.



Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly
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Spiritual aspects of treatment

Dr. Geary Alford, consulting psychologist at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center, discusses the spiritual side of treatment.

(Last week's column on compulsive behavior was also part of an interview with Alford.)

Would you give your impression about the spiritual aspects of treatment?

The spiritual aspects of treatment and recovery are fundamental and crucial. One psychological characteristic of chemical dependency is abnormal and excessive egocentricity manifested not only in selfishness, self-centered, manipulative behavior, but also in gross self-deception. Unintentionally, or unconsciously, such gross egocentricity involves feelings of special powers as if "I'm not quite like ordinary mortals," and other grandiose-type thinking. There is a kind of arrogance in the face of universal reality, even to the extent of behaving as if natural laws do not really apply. Often there is an unconscious sense that the acts of thinking and believing change reality itself. A sense that whether something is true or not is determined by whether that person BELIEVES it himself, not by its objective, independent reality.

Associated with such extreme egocentricity is the resentment, rejection and conflict with limits, rules, and "authority." In the broadest sense of that term: "Nothing and nobody is going to tell me what I can or can't do. Nothing and nobody is going to control me or tell me what to do." In such individuals, reality tends to be unconsciously viewed as a kind of personal creation and as a personal possession: "My reality is mine. It's my world."

One of the things that happens in treatment is a reassessment of one's place in the world and to realize a true relationship with a higher power. For those of us who are Christian, this higher power is God. In actual reality, the world is his creation, not ours. It is we who are his creation; and it is also we who must adapt to God's world, not it to us.

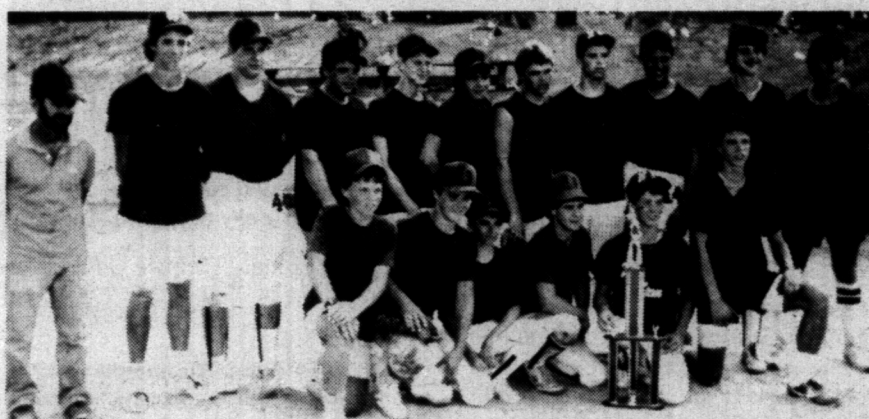
This relationship involves deflating overblown egos and relinquishing self-deceptive beliefs and self-deluded "powers." It is surrendering the arrogance of egocentricity for the humility of what it means to be truly human in the face of God and his universe. In everyday life, there is a fundamental recognition and acceptance that we humans have maximum freedom only in self-subjugation to reality as it is, as it was created. The essence of this spiritual aspect is reflected in the Serenity Prayer: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with Dr. Ed Burchak of the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Drive as you wish your kids would. — Press, New Egypt, N. J.

Butch, the old-time watchdog, has retired, but like most retired persons, his old habits persist. He sleeps where any burglar would waken the household by falling over him. — Banner, Bald Knob, Ark.

Softball tourney winners announced



New Zion Church, Monticello, boy's team placed first in the July 18-19 state Baptist softball tourney held at Woodville Heights Church in Jackson. Pictured left to right: Brian Thurman, Jeff Davis, Scotty Herring, Roger Davis, Bobby Bourne, and Amp Case. Standing: Bobby Boyles, coach; Todd Evans, Danny Baker, Spook Evans, Jody Davis, Bill Brown, Darrin Thurman, Michael Rushing, Chris Brown, Clint Errington, and Randy Gibson, coach.



Tybertown Church's boys' placed second in the state Baptist softball tourney. The coaches are Adris Brock and Jimmy Kemp. Players include Clay Magee, Lance Brock, Jerry Lee, Ron Rushing, Cliff Magee, Clay Busbin, David Kemp, Terry Nelson, Chris Huhn, Shawn Busbin, Ray Pigott, and Pat Harvey.

Senior Adult Corner

A group of senior adults from First Church, Tutwiler, recently took a trip to Eureka Springs, Ark., where they attended the Great Passion Play. While there they attended the Pine Mountain Jamboree and had a day of sightseeing in the town. Senior adults who participated were Clara Crocker, Polly Jennings, Leona Lane, Agnes Martindale, Thelma Wright, J. W. and Ruth Kellum, and Lewis and Savannah Kellum. They were accompanied by Carolyn Moore and their pastor and wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gregg Thomas.

The church's senior adults have recently organized a fellowship group that meets on the third Monday of each month for a meal and a program of interest to this age group. The group is called the T.N.T.'s (Twix 'n Tween).

The Senior Adult group, "Keenagers" of Trinity Church, Pearl, recently went to Vicksburg and took a cruise on the "Spirit of Vicksburg." They also drove through the Military National Park.

The Keenagers meet once a month and have a membership of 49 senior adults. O. Lyn Nations is pastor.

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Search for Noah's ark stops

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (EP) — Former astronaut James Irwin, whose last trip to Turkey's Mount Ararat to search for Noah's Ark ended after Turkish officials detained his team, says he is giving up the search. "I think I've done all I can to attract attention to the ark. I think it is time

others take up the search," he said while addressing the Wellspring Mission Volunteers Foundation. Irwin, 56, said his failure to find the Ark during several trips to Ararat are an indication that God has something else for him.

Pornography report being distributed

CINCINNATI, Ohio (EP) — An inexpensive summary of the report by the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography is being distributed by the National Coalition Against Pornography (N-CAP). The 39-page summary of the commission's 2,000-plus page report was prepared by Richard McLawhorn, N-CAP's executive vice president and general counsel, and reviewed and approved by the ex-

ecutive director of the commission, and by some commission members.

Individual copies of the N-CAP summary are available for \$3 each, plus 50 cents postage for each copy ordered; bulk prices are available. Copies may be ordered from: National Coalition Against Pornography, 800 Compton Rd., Suite 9248, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has called Ken Alford as pastor. Alford, pastor of Catoma Church, Montgomery, Ala., will begin his duties in Clinton next Sunday, Oct. 19. He was graduated from Troy State University in 1976. He earned master of divinity (1979) and doctor of ministry (1985) degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. After graduation from seminary he spent a year in full-time evangelism, and then became pastor of the Catoma Church in April, 1981.



He was born on Sept. 25, 1954, in Luverne, Ala., and licensed in 1980 by

Ridgecrest Church, Montgomery, Ala. He is married to the former Cynthia Ann Johnson of Mobile, who received a bachelor's degree in commercial art from the University of South Alabama.

Bill Jenkins, former moderator, Bolivar Association, has resigned as pastor of Yale Street Church, Cleveland. He and his wife moved to the Gulf Coast, where he is pastor of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

Zion Church, (Pontotoc), has called Mrs. Tommy (Sara) Morton as minister of music. The Mortons were members of West Heights, Pontotoc. Morton served for several years as minister of music at Ingomar Church, Union County Association. Danny Bullock, pastor.

Ed Campbell has resigned as pastor of New Zion Church, Mississippi Association. He lives at Magnolia.

Timothy D. McDaniel of Jacksonville, Fla., was called to Juniper Grove Church, Pearl River Association, as minister of music. McDaniel is a student at New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife have two daughters. Juniper Grove Church will have its fall revival in November, with Bruce Fields of First Church, Biloxi, preaching. David Raddin is pastor.

Carmel Church, Monticello, has recently called Euel Nelson as minister of music and youth. Nelson will work with the entire music program of the church while he and his wife, Melba, will lead in the youth work.



Bethel Church dedicated new facilities in 1979.

Bethel, Liberty, to celebrate

(Continued from page 9) building burned. Through the dedication, sacrifices and efforts of church members and friends Bethel dedicated her new facilities on May 29, 1979. In 1985 construction began on

an educational wing and during the summer of 1986 a picnic pavilion was added. The new additions will be dedicated during the centennial celebration.

Group wants to clarify role . . .

(Continued from page 3)
piano preparatory program students.

The next meeting of the Education Commission is Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. in Jackson.

The text of the commission-related constitutional change proposal is as follows:

Article IX. The Education Commission
Section 1. The Convention shall maintain an Education Commission composed of twelve members: of whom six shall be active pastors, three shall be educators, none of whom shall be connected in any way with any of Convention's

educational institutions, and three shall be business persons. In addition, the presidents of administrators of the Convention's educational institutions, the presidents of their respective boards of trustees, the Mississippi Baptist Convention President, the State W.M.U. Convention President, and the President of the Board of Ministerial Education, shall serve in an ex officio capacity. The election of the members of the Commission shall be in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws of the Convention.

Section 2. The Education Commission shall: (1) cultivate the interest and financial assistance of Mississippi Baptists on behalf of Christian higher education; (2) seek to strengthen the colleges of Mississippi Baptists, and unify the efforts of these institutions in a Convention program of Christian higher education; (3) receive, study, evaluate and offer necessary recommendations on annual

reports, audits and recommendations of the educational institutions and the Board of Ministerial Education; (4) inaugurate, promote and direct any program of study, survey, research or evaluation of the institutions as may be deemed necessary to the welfare and health of the institutions or the Convention; (5) make recommendations, through the Convention Board to the Convention, concerning all cooperative efforts in the field of Christian higher education; (6) recommend to the Convention Board institutional apportionments or methods for determining these from the funds set aside by the Convention for Christian higher education; (7) be the channel through the Convention Board to the Convention for all matters relating to the total program of the Conventions' educational institutions, including new or additional programs or projects, involving additional financial assistance from the Convention.

Farm population shows abrupt decline

U.S. farm population declined 7 percent between 1984 and 1985, the decade's first significant change in farm population.

A report by the Census Bureau and the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service showed farm population fell 399,000 to 5.36 million.

The decline, it said, can probably be traced to "the current financial stress faced by the farm sector."

In other cases, more young people may have moved off the farm to seek other employment than in the past.

The Midwest held its own, but that will probably change since 60 percent

of the country's financially troubled farmers are in that region.

The trend toward fewer but bigger farms is also continuing.

The report calculated that 2.2 percent of the nation's total population lived on a farm in 1985.

—The Washington Post

Bedtime: kiss and a prayer

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Most kids in the U.S. are put to bed with a kiss and a prayer, according to a Public Attitudes survey done for Springs Performance, a maker of novelty sheets. The survey of 514 parents of children ages 3-13 showed that 92 percent kiss their

children good night, and 65 percent say bedtime prayers. The survey also showed that 52 percent often tell or read stories to their children, 15 percent tuck their kids in with a toy or stuffed animal, and 20 percent have trouble getting their kids to bed.



Unity will host association

Unity Church, Montgomery County, will host the associational meeting next week at its newly completed educational and fellowship building. The 39 X 90 foot construction includes eight Sunday School rooms. Pictured are the building committee composed of Joe Jackson, pastor; Larry Pattan; Mack Simmons; and Ronald Bennett.

(Continued from page 9) Record Children's Page), drove over from Alexandria. We ate lunch in the Jefferson-Sheraton Hotel, an old building recently restored. Its magnificent lobby has a stained glass ceiling, and a marble floor with carpeting inset in some of its designs. We saw the State Capitol designed by Thomas Jefferson in 1785 and drove past St. Johns Church. (I didn't know

it until later in the day, but that's the church where Patrick Henry delivered his "Give me liberty or give me death" speech in 1775.)

At dusk, I walked again along Monument Avenue, admiring red geraniums on the doorsteps of old houses. I breathed a prayer of gratitude for 3806, home base for missionaries to 107 countries.

3806 Monument

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Just for the Record



Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, held dedication services, Sept. 28, for the two-story educational facility located to the left in the above picture. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was guest speaker. These services featured Sunday School attendance (the highest ever), recognition of the officials of the general contractor (Mac's Construction Company), the employees who constructed the facility, the bank officials where loan was secured, dinner on the grounds, and open house. George G. Aultman, pastor.



Cruger Church, Cruger, recently held ground breaking services for the construction of a new sanctuary.

The new building will be erected on the exact site of the former building, which was donated to another congregation and moved to their location east of Cruger.

Pullen Construction Co., of Tchula is general contractor, and Dennis Wixon of Avalon is the architect.

Pictured are the building committee members, left to right, Vernon Lehman, Greg Householder, O. W. "Buck" Harris, H. L. Gordon, chairman, Mrs. Fred Lindsey, and Larry McDonald, pastor. Not pictured is Mrs. Karlis Gercens.



Mt. Horeb Church, Collins, recently held its GA/Acteen recognition service, "His Love Reaching." Pictured, left to right, are Lee Higginbotham, Karri Lyons, Michelle Cranford, Laura McGowen, Galya McRaney, Karen Langford, B. J. Graves, Jodi Lyons, Ann McGowen, Mariea Lyons, Kristen McRaney, Mary Ann Graves, leaders Peggy Ward and Greta Graves.

Acteens are Amanda Allen, Pam Harper, Amy Hughes, Jennifer Ward, Kristie Duncan, Kelly Langford, Nita Wood and leader Janell Langford.

Crown Bearers, front row, are Justin Norris, Tony Gingrich, Sara Beth Duncan, Brandi Mayfield, Teresa Gingrich and Melanie Ford. Philip Duncan, pastor.

Emmanuel, Pearl, celebrates its first anniversary, Oct. 19, in Pearl City Park. It will start at 11 a.m. with Tommy Anderson, pastor, bringing the message, dinner on the grounds and gospel singing.

Wheeler Grove Church (Alcorn), held a note-burning for its pastor's home Oct. 5, during morning worship services. The note, in excess of \$70,000, was paid off in less than two years. Kara Blackard, pastor.

Mount Vernon (Newton): Oct. 19; Ron Mercer, former pastor, message; Sunday School, 9:55 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; singspiration, led by Jim Hill, music director, 1:30 p.m.; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah (Tallahatchie): Oct. 19; Bill Osborn, psychologist, Sassafras Hill Counseling Center, Inc., Hattiesburg, speaking on positive Christian living, 11 a.m. service; dinner on grounds following morning worship; Aubrey Martin, pastor; Osborn attended Mt. Pisgah as a teenager.

Jayess (Lawrence): Oct. 19; Jimmy Willis, pastor, 1961-62, of LaGrange, Ga., speaking, 11 a.m. worship service; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon hour; afternoon singing; Richard Green, interim pastor.

Good Hope (Leake): harvest day, Oct. 19; morning service conducted by pastor, Odell Tebo; followed by lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service will feature former pastors and singing.

Sandersville Church, Sandersville: Oct. 26; homecoming; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship service at 11; dinner on the ground; short song service in the sanctuary at 1 p.m.; no night service; "a day of renewing past friendships and making new friends, enjoying the food, fun,

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Oct. 20 Area Secretaries' Conference; Pike Associational Office, McComb; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 21 Area Secretaries' Conference; Simpson Associational Office, Mendenhall; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 22 Area Secretaries' Conference; FBC, Leland; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 23 Area Secretaries' Conference; FBC, West Point; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 24-25 Church Media Library Conference; Immanuel BC, Cleveland; 10 a.m., 24th-Noon, 25th (SS)
- Oct. 24-26 International Student Conference; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 24th-Noon, 26th (SW)

Homecomings

and fellowship"; H. D. Swindall, pastor; Valeria Lafferty, hospitality chairman.

Oloh (Lamar): Oct. 19; morning service at 11, followed by lunch and dedication service, 1:30; Toby Everett, whose father was pastor of Oloh, speaking during morning service; Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar Association, speaking at dedication of new education/fellowship building, 1:30. Members are raising finances to finish the new building, which needs air conditioning/heating system, septic tank, and outside walls painted.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 19; C. J. Townsend, former pastor, guest speaker, morning service; Sunday School, 10:00, church service, 10:30; dinner on ground; The Deep South Boys from Pearl, music in afternoon; David Blackwell, pastor.

Cherry Street, Clarksdale: 25th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 26; Dan Mobley, pastor, Midway, Calhoun County, former pastor, Cherry Street, preaching, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds served, noon; afternoon service will include dedication of the new steeple, special music by present and former members, and testimonies by two charter members; Wesley Nicholas, pastor; Troy Sandifer, Jr., minister of music.

Briarwood, Meridian: Oct. 19; Sunday School, 9:45, worship service, 10:45; dinner served, at noon; remembrance service, special music, 1 p.m.; Thomas J. Wood, pastor.

Wiggins (Leake): Oct. 19, harvest Day; special musical program by Senior Citizens of First Methodist Church, Carthage in afternoon service; Carlton Jones, pastor.

Bethel, Bogue Chitto: Oct. 26; homecoming and senior citizen's day; morning services, 11 a.m., recognition of senior citizens, G.A. Smith, former pastor, message; covered dish lunch, fellowship hall, noon; 1 p.m. "The Gospel Five" from Magnolia, singing; Harry Kennedy, pastor.

Zion Hill, Wesson: Oct. 26; services, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the ground, gospel singing; Ronnie Burch, former pastor, speaker; 103rd anniversary; J. Frank Smith, pastor.

Glendale, Leland: Oct. 26; James Pugh Jr., speaker; music by the church choir; Edd Pendergrast, pastor.

First, Runnelstown: Oct. 26; James E. Parker, guest speaker; W. C. Rainey, music; Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12 noon, afternoon service immediately following.

Revival Dates

Salem, Potts Camp: Oct. 19-24; 7:30 p.m.; Danny Sparks, preaching; Charlie Ranseir, music; Ed Alexander, pastor.

Cherry Park, Clinton (Hinds-Madison): Oct. 19-24; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jackie Cooke, Columbia, evangelist; Hollis Alderman, pastor.

White Bluff, Rt. 1, Foxworth: Oct. 19-22; Howard Aultman, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m., dinner served at noon, afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Marvin Graham, pastor.

First, Burnsville: Oct. 20-24; Sunday, regular services; 7 p.m., nightly; Oct. 20-22, Ray Bennett, pastor, preaching; Oct. 23, Kara Blackard, preaching; Oct. 24, Harvey Reeves, preaching; Jim and Debbie Kirk, music.

Temple, Jackson: Oct. 19-22; J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison, evangelist; John Jerry Smith, music; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:50 a.m.; church training, 6 p.m.; worship, 6:50 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. James E. Watts, pastor.

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PGG starts in 1,000 churches; planners sight its potential

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — About 1,000 of the Southern Baptist Convention's 36,979 churches have participated in their denomination's year-old Planned Growth in Giving emphasis. The percentage may be low, but planners say the campaign is on track for realistic success.

Planned Growth in Giving is designed to raise combined contributions given to Southern Baptist churches from \$3 billion to \$20 billion annually by the year 2000. The campaign was approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in 1983 and was launched throughout the convention last fall.

Conducted on the local church level, it calls for increased contributions to churches. It also seeks greater participation by churches in the Cooperative Program, the SBC unified budget which supports missions, ministry and education endeavors worldwide.

"The churches which have used it have responded with a great deal of

excitement," said Cecil Ray, national Planned Growth in Giving director. "They have given a very favorable assessment of the program, as have state, denominational, and associational leaders."

"We're talking about relative things" in attempting to assess current progress of the program, said A. R. Fagan, president of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission. "Without exception, those churches that have tried it have liked it."

Participating churches have experienced offering increases ranging from 12 to 45 percent, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

However, the 1,000 churches that have participated thus far come from only about 10,000 or 12,000 of the convention's churches that conduct any type of stewardship emphasis, Fagan said, noting these are the churches most likely to participate in the program.

"We could hope 30,000 churches eventually would participate, but that's unrealistic," Fagan said, noting 3,500 churches might be a realistic expectation. Bennett said he hopes 50 percent of churches which conduct regular stewardship emphases — about 5,000 to 6,000 churches — will have participated by the end of 1988.

"For Planned Growth in Giving ultimately to be successful, we'll have to stay with it over a long period of time, and more of our churches will have to be enlisted," Ray noted. "We'll have to have as part of our long-range plan to enlist those churches which do not normally have a stewardship plan as part of their program."

"The realization of our \$20 billion goal will not be accomplished with only 10 percent of our churches involved, so we'll have to have a higher percentage," he added. "Over the years, I expect we'll have more than 10 percent involved. That's the advantage of it's being a 15-year program."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Thursday, October 16, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

Names in the News



Grace Church, Philadelphia, recently held ordination service. Haywood Wallace, left and Gary Akins, right, were ordained as deacon. Dennis Duvall is pastor.



Harmony Church, (Union), ordained Dale Manning as deacon, Sept. 21. Robert L. Daniel, pastor of Harmony, far right, brought the charge to the church and the ordination message. Elliot Manning, Dale's father, led in the ordination prayer. Dale's grandfather, Charlie Manning, also was a deacon at Harmony.

McCool Church will celebrate 100th anniversary Oct. 26

The congregation of McCool Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's organization in special services, Sunday, Oct. 26.

Clyde Wroten of Collierville, pastor during the early 60's, will be guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. At 1:30, there will be gospel singing led by the Glory Road Boys from Kosciusko and the Spokesmen from Choctaw County. All former pastors who attend will be given an opportunity to speak during the morning service.

The first building of McCool Church was across the street from the present structure, in the area of an old school building. The building the church currently occupies was dedicated in 1935. It was constructed at a cost of \$14,500. A. T. Cinnamon of Kosciusko, pastor when the building was begun, was guest speaker at the dedication. Charles T. Davis was pastor when the building was completed.

In 1955, a pastorium was constructed during the pastorate of C. A. Smith. The addition of a basement kitchen and Sunday School rooms, was made in the 1960's, during the pastorate of Clyde Wroten. Several years later, during Henning Andrews'

pastorate, the sanctuary was remodeled, new pews installed, and the baptistry was added.

The latest addition to the facilities is a fellowship hall, kitchen, and seven Sunday School rooms. This was added in 1983 at a cost of \$60,000, during the pastorate of Mike Howell. Payment of the facility had been projected for a 10-year period. However, this summer, 2½ years after construction, note burning services were held, marking the final payment of the debt.

The current deacons are Mac Blaine, Wilbur Brunt, Johnny Doude, David Jones, chairman, Marty Mitchell, and Jimmy Norris. The centennial committee, consists of Mrs. Edna Norris, chairman, Mrs. Thelma Mitchell, and Mrs. Jan Black.

Pastors of the church since 1919 have been, A. D. Mise, H. O. Clark, D. I. Young, N. H. Roberts, J. B. Berry, W. A. Roper, Marlin Miller, Billy Fancher, Hayward Moore, Naten Pullin, C. A. Smith, Joe Pericola, Archie Windham, Gene Horn, Clyde Wroten, Thomas Broadhead, Howard Scarborough, Henning Andrews, Calvin Kelly, and the present pastor, Mike Howell.



The eyes tell the story

Underneath a traditional Arabic head covering, and partially concealed by a cup of thick, Turkish coffee, the smiling eyes of Shukery Rabady shine with the hope found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Missionaries supported by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program work to spread the gospel alongside Jordanians like Rabady, who is pastor of Irbid Baptist Church north of Amman. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

In deaf work



Woodland Hills celebrates 25 years

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 25th anniversary of work with the deaf, Oct. 19. Clifford Bruffey, missionary to the deaf in Virginia for the Home Mission Board, will be the guest speaker.

Bruffey, along with Fuller B. Saunders and Mrs. Rachel Tate,

started work with the deaf at Woodland Hills 25 years ago.

Bruffey will speak in the Chapel for the Deaf at the church at 10:45 a.m. Sunday and at the evening worship service in the main sanctuary at 7 p.m. The evening service will be interpreted for hearing persons.

Stained glass windows will be

dedicated in the Chapel for the Deaf on Sunday morning as part of the worship and anniversary celebration.

A reception follows the evening service.

Tom Berry serves as minister to the deaf at Woodland Hills. Bill Fuller is pastor.

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BAPTIST BOOK STORES

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capsules

Lutheran group offers alternative to merger

ST. PAUL, Minn. (EP) — Lutheran pastors and laity from California, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota met Aug. 28-29 to plan the formation of an alternative to the proposed Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the giant Lutheran body that will be formed by the merger of the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

Called the Association of American Lutheran Churches (AALC), the new Lutheran denomination will attract as many as 500 ALC congregations and pastors who are unhappy with the ECLA's stand on biblical inerrancy.

"The ALC had and still has in its constitution the wording that the Scriptures are the inerrant and infallible Word of God. The LCA did not have these words," said an AALC leader, who sees the merger as an abandonment of the ALC's historic stand in biblical authority. "There has been a drift, and it's been going on for two decades."

The AALC has scheduled an assembly for Oct. 20 for all ALC pastors and laity who are considering alternatives to the merger.

New location is selected for press

NANJING — A new location has been selected for the Amity Printing Press according to the American Bible Society. The new site, on the outskirts of Nanjing, in Jiangning County, is about 9 kilometers (about five miles) from the city center, and is a developing area for industry and international trade. ABS is a member of the global United Bible Societies partnership which has agreed to fund the Amity Printing Press project.

Amity Printing Press will give priority to the printing of Bibles and New Testaments along with other literature entrusted to it by the church bodies in China. In addition, it will print other materials of service to society in keeping with the aims of Amity Foundation.

Lutherans dialogue with other bodies

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — The American Lutheran Church (ALC) has entered into a "new relationship" with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Reformed Church in America which includes "occasional joint services of the Lord's Supper" and "the sharing of pastors between our traditions."

The proposal for mutual recognition, growing out of some 20 years of formal dialogues, was adopted overwhelmingly by delegates at the ALC's

13th General convention, held recently in Minneapolis.

The action means that the ALC formally recognizes the two church bodies from the Reformed tradition as churches in which the Gospel is properly preached and which have authentic sacraments and ministries. It reciprocates identical actions by the 3.2 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) and by the 353,000-member Reformed Church in America at conventions in June.

Living longer means more grandparenting

For the first time, most American adults are living long enough to get to know their grandchildren.

Sociologist Andrew J. Cherlin of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore says a child born in the U.S. in 1900 had only a 50 percent chance of having two or more living grandparents by age 15.

Today's chance, he says, is 90 percent.

Cherlin studies relationships of 510 grandparents and their grandchildren.

—USA Today

Tyndale will release chronological Bible

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (EP) — Tyndale House Publishers will soon release a chronologically-organized version of *The Living Bible* paraphrase titled *The Story: From Adam to Armageddon*.

The new book is being produced because of "evangelical concern that people understand the Word of God," said Kenneth Taylor, founder of Tyndale House. "There is still a large audience which is one step away from reading *The Living Bible* because it is too massive and too heavy."

The chronological Bible will condense the biblical text by shortening some books, dropping others, combining gospels, and dropping Paul's letters into the Book of Acts.

Family Christmas helps available from Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Family Christmas Preparation packet is now available from the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Seminary here.

The packet offers a variety of suggestions for ways families can draw closer and emphasize the true meaning of the Christmas season.

The material was developed from a workshop held at the seminary last year to help seminary families understand and manage the Christmas season more meaningfully.

To obtain the packet, write to the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry, Box 1786, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. 40280.

Plans developed to combat world 'hunger holocaust'

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Only daring plans and stronger financial support will allow Southern Baptists to help counteract a "hunger holocaust" that could sweep through every developing nation, insists John R. Cheyne, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's world hunger program.

Cheyne and other board leaders are attempting to consider more imaginative ways to help the whole person — body, mind and spirit.

"All the worldwide projections regarding population, economics, food production and drought would indicate no other possibility than a major famine, a hunger holocaust," Cheyne predicts. The poverty problem throughout the world is growing faster than the world is able to respond, he adds.

This year between 13 million and 18 million people will starve to death, experts say. That's 35,000 people a day, or 24 people a minute. The number of people who die from hunger every two days equals the number who were killed instantly by the atom bomb in Hiroshima. And 50 percent of them live in just five countries — India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

The hunger crisis in many countries

stems from a mindset that assumes people can be taught to live better without being freed from their natural tendency to sin, Cheyne says, adding worldwide "modernization" falls short of being an answer to world hunger because it does not reach individuals at this point of basic need.

For example, while Africa grows in population faster than any place in the world, secular aid programs there seek to build up national economies. In contrast, Southern Baptist relief efforts seek to help individuals understand their relationship to God and their environment. Because their priorities change, these transformed people have a different mindset which motivates them to accept new ideas for helping themselves.

Millions of people moving into cities are creating mass ghettos worldwide, making it hard to reach them with the gospel using traditional methods. Many cities throughout the developing world are swelling at a rate of 15 percent per year, while their economic growth is about 3 percent.

Migrants to the cities find no jobs and own few assets to sell for income. Their caloric intake is low, and their motivation wanes. If something is not done to help them become self-sufficient, they will become a collective welfare state for the world to nur-

ture, Cheyne says. At present, no one has developed a system to reach them with help.

Cheyne advocates a new set of personal lifestyle priorities for Southern Baptists who want to give enough of their income to help these masses. The urgency of such a lifestyle change will be emphasized in many churches Oct. 12 as the denomination observes World Hunger Day.

Southern Baptists gave a record amount for world hunger last year because of the acute needs in Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries. Many joined in the convention-wide "Pray for Rain" effort, and rains have brought temporary relief to Ethiopia and other countries.

Cheyne emphasizes it will take regular giving to world hunger relief to provide the funds necessary to make a lasting impact.

Through the first eight months of this year, world hunger gifts are lagging about 42 percent behind those for the same period in 1985. Last year Southern Baptists had given just over \$7.5 million through August. Through August of this year they have given about \$4.4 million, about the pace for the same period in 1984.

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

"This lady brought food to help us"

The ministry of missionary Edith Vaughn in Brazil shows how people can be reached for Jesus Christ through relief programs. In the state of Pernambuco, hundreds of families have been spiritually transformed and have learned to use their new philosophy of life to better themselves, after being reached through Southern Baptist-funded programs outside of churches.

Vaughn, in addition to working with seven churches in Pernambuco, has started several programs to help Brazilians live free of need. Once she was told she would be stoned if she began work in the rural village of Canaan. But five years ago she was driving through the town when her tire went flat. As she was getting it fixed, the Brazilian Baptists with her started a Bible study in the village square.

From the beginning, Vaughn invited women in Canaan to a "mothers' club" in the village. She began teaching the Bible and sometimes gave the mothers little helps, such as packages of milk or cereal.

One day the priest confronted several of the women about their attendance at the mothers' club. "A nice group of them have accepted Jesus, only they are scared to become Baptists," says Vaughn. "This one lady looked the priest right in the eye and said, 'I am not



Plenty for all

Until this past spring World Hunger funds through the Foreign Mission Board supported a program that helped feed this little boy and others in Comas, on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson.

going to stop going to her classes. I like them, and besides that, when I was hungry your church did nothing for me. This lady brought in food to help us."

When she first came as a missionary to Brazil in 1954,

Vaughn began a social work center in Recife. Once in Brazil she asked for funding for the Friendship House community center, and she worked there for the first 27 years of her missionary career.

"For many years we didn't give anything out, just the gospel," says Vaughn. "When I thought about the Friendship House program, I asked the Lord what I would do to attract people, whether it would be a television program or what it would be. I opened the Bible to where Jesus said, 'If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.'"

Although the program deals with all aspects of people's welfare, its foundation is teaching the gospel.

"There are hundreds of mothers who have come to Friendship House . . . and hundreds of homes in Recife where today the mother and father are working and are members of a church," says Vaughn. "They have a different life because they were helped and came to know the Lord."

Vaughn tells also about a Brazilian pastor who opened a small clothing-production project using World Hunger funds left from another project. He taught women how to sew clothes, and they began making money. Lifted above the starvation level, the women's families learned to tithe, and now they have money in the church treasury.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

At a wedding in Cana, Jesus begins his public ministry

By Marjean Patterson
John 2:1-25

The signs that Jesus used to point beyond himself to a truth about God are dealt with in John 2. While the public ministry of Jesus is interpreted in the passage, the private ministry of Jesus is interpreted in this passage, the private ministry of Jesus comes later.

We see Jesus and his disciples arriving in Galilee. These close followers had no assurance, other than his words and those of John the Baptist, that Jesus was who he claimed to be.

The deity of Jesus would be affirmed through the miracles which he worked, thus deepening the faith of his followers.

I. Jesus' miracle at the wedding in Cana

In his gospel, John records seven signs of Jesus. Each of these signs tells something about the nature and ministry of Jesus.

The miracle of turning water into wine came shortly after Jesus had been introduced to the world. The happy occasion for this first supernatural sign was a wedding feast in the village of Cana, about eight or nine miles north of Nazareth.

Jesus' mother, Mary, was a guest at this feast, as were Jesus and his followers. Sudden-

BIBLE BOOK

ly an embarrassing situation occurred. The supply of wine was exhausted. A seven-days long feast would naturally call for a great amount of wine.

Mary spoke to Jesus about the lack of wine, perhaps feeling that this special son would be able to do something about the situation. In a tender exchange between Jesus and his mother, Mary is reminded that, while he respects her as his mother, he now bears a new relationship.

Jesus spoke of his "hour" when he would suffer and die in order to manifest God's redeeming love. His response confirms his primary purpose in coming into the world. Though he was interested in the physical, social, and intellectual concerns of his family and friends, his principal purpose was to be the Savior of the world.

And so Jesus proceeded to give instructions to the household servants to fill six waterpots with water and then to draw out some of the liquid to take to the head waiter. At some unknown point, water was turned into wine. In

fact, the quality of the new wine surpassed that of any they'd had.

John reported that this miracle helped the disciples to put their faith in him, while signs such as the turning of water into wine would increase the hatred of his enemies.

II. Cleansing of the temple (2:13-16)

Following a brief visit to the Galilean city of Capernaum, which would later become his base of operations, Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem for Passover.

The incident recorded by John likely occurred in an outer area of the temple complex, called the Court of the Gentiles.

As Jesus entered the area, the scene which greeted him caused his blood to boil. Herschel Hobbs likened the scene "more fitting to an oriental bazaar than to a temple of God." They were selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons there, as well as changing money. Because many of the people had to come to Jerusalem from long distances, this practice had begun as a service to the people.

Gradually, corruption had set in and some of the money intended for use in the worship of God began to wind up in the pockets of those who worked the stalls. Had a Gentile made his

way to this part of the temple to worship God, he'd have found this revolting scene.

No effeminate, spineless one was Jesus! Taking a whip, he drove the merchants from the temple court. As he turned over the tables of the traders, he charged them with making the house of God a house of trade. Jesus had been infuriated because commerce was taking place in the temple where compassion for the Gentiles should have been shown.

III. Reference to Jesus' death (2:18-22)

Immediately following the actions of Jesus in the temple, the religious leaders wanted him to give them a sign which would indicate that he had the right to assume such authority.

In a response designed to reveal truth to the faithful and to hide it from the hostile, Jesus spoke symbolically of his death and resurrection. Though the religious leaders failed to understand the meaning of Jesus' words, his followers would later come to understand them with joy and thanksgiving.

In John 2, long-awaited Messiah was about his Father's business. May we learn from him the importance of doing our Father's will.

Marjean Patterson is executive director, Mississippi WMU.

Goodness . . . is rooted in responsible relationships

By James W. Street
Genesis 2:15-25

Everybody needs somebody! A recent study concluded that fifteen percent of Americans suffer from some kind of emotional problem. Half of these problems are directly related to alcohol and drug abuse. This same study revealed that in every category of distress lonely persons have far more emotional difficulties than persons who enjoy the company of others. It is tempting to conclude from this study and others that everybody needs somebody.

One of the great myths of our time is that we can stand on our own two feet without needing or being needed — that we can be impervious to our own emotional needs or the emotional needs of others. That is a lie! Such a life is an impossibility and if it were possible it would most certainly be a joyless existence. Everybody needs somebody. We are created as a part of God's good creation with those needs. The goodness that God intended for us is rooted and grounded in responsible relationships.

The course of a responsible relationship never runs smoothly. That's true between

LIFE AND WORK

husbands and wives, parents and children, siblings, church members, friends, and business acquaintances. Each individual is unique. We differ in our feelings, values, and experiences. We grow as we learn from one another. In required pre-marital counselling sessions, I try to get couples to see that opposites attract. They are not alike and neither has the right to have an agenda, open or hidden, to remake the other into a "perfect" mate. In marriage they are not to be alike — just be together.

Someone suggested that human marriages are analogous to porcupines. The closer we are, the more we needle each other. A responsible relationship, particularly marriage, does not mean that agreement is necessary. It means that we respect — yea, even reverence — the other's uniqueness. It means we agree to disagree together. It means that the ties which bind us are more important than the differences that divide us. A local saint used to hear her

mother say: "I've seen the time I could kill him, but now I'm so glad I didn't."

Everybody needs somebody! Responsible relationships are not easy or automatic, but they are essential. Some folk have a hard time receiving love from a significant other because of a misplaced pride and/or an unhearty lack of self-esteem. Many are poor receivers. Some of us are not very good at accepting the kindness of others. Some of us refuse to let others love us because they may show weakness on our part.

It takes a big person to receive love. Indeed, it may take a bigger person to receive love than to give love. Of course, receiving love is what the gospel is all about. We cannot give God any love. Yes, I know Jesus told us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That was for our benefit, not God's. We cannot add to what he is already. But, we can receive from him. That is our greatest need — to be filled with his love and grace. We cannot add to his love, but we can receive from him love enough

to make our lives overflow.

Everybody needs somebody. To be able to receive love is as important as being able to give it. There is one whose very nature is love and who wants to fill you to overflowing. That kind of experience is basic to other responsible relationships. You see, God understands and provides for the human need for personal relationships. He knew us before we were born, knew the quotient of our loneliness and developed a cure for it.

Marriage is that primary cure. The marriage relationship provides the unique setting for loneliness abatement which the man and woman want. The wedded state calls for a new fidelity. Faithful to each other in terms of a lack of promiscuity and faithful to each other in terms of severing ties to respective parental groups. That leads to a healthy dependence on each other which develops closeness, openness, and trust. A good marriage is one of God's most magnificent blessings.

James Street is pastor, First, Cleveland.

There's something exciting in building for the future

By Robert E. Self
2 Samuel 7:4-16

Recently a lady shared with her friends the farsightedness of her late husband in the building of their home. She related that they lived in a place that did not have electric power at the time. Her husband knew, however, that one day the power lines would be built along the road by their house and that it would be available to them. When he built the house, he had it wired for electricity and plumbed for running water, looking forward to that eventful time. Many of her friends were amused over the fact that she had lived in a house that was wired and plumbed for five years without electricity or running water being available.

Many of us have given ourselves to tasks that for the present have little use. We do so looking to the future, believing that one day the dream will come true. Many young couples build a nursery in their first home long before the news arrives that a baby is due. Farmers have often built the corn crib before the corn is ready to harvest. There is something fresh and exciting about building for the future.

I. The plan of David (2 Samuel 7:4-7)

UNIFORM

David, the second king of Israel, observed that he dwelt in a house that literally was a "permanent and costly sanctuary" while the ark of the Lord was kept in a tent. Somehow he was impressed that the order was reversed. He conceived a plan to correct this apparent injustice. He would build an appropriate place to house the ark.

Nathan was made aware of the plan and seems to have agreed that it was a good idea. God spoke to him and did not so much question the idea of a new place to house the ark, but indicated that David was not the one to build it. This must have been a painful thing for David to hear.

II. The purpose of God (2 Samuel 7:8-9)

David's hurt was overcome by the realization that God had greater things in mind for him. His lowly origins were retold. God reminded him that he was found as a shepherd boy tending the sheep and that he had risen to the top position in the land. God himself had taken David under his hand.

That guidance assured for him food when he

was hungry, protection when he was pursued and love when he was hated. God's purpose ultimately was not for here and now, but for tomorrow. God was building for the future while David was concerned for the present.

III. The profit of his purpose

As God's purpose began to unfold, several beautiful ideas were shared. First, God promised that the people of Israel would have a permanent home. No longer would they be imposters in a strange place. They would lay claim to their own country. In connection with the promise, God also promised to protect them. They would be able to rest from the afflictions that had become so common to them.

God promised that he would raise up a descendant after David who would establish a kingdom and build the house of God. Solomon built the house of God and furthered the kingdom. The ultimate building of the house and establishing the kingdom falls to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who through his own body establishes the kingdom forever. God was looking to the future while David was concerned for the present.

All of us are a part of a great drama that is

being acted out over the ages. We are links in a huge chain of events that will reflect upon generations to come as they in turn carry out their own part of the drama. We have been influenced by grandparents and parents and will in turn influence our children and our grandchildren. It is only as we give attention to the present that we can influence the future. We must not live our lives for the future but at the same time we cannot forget that what we do now will have effect for years to come. Every parent, every teacher, every preacher must always have in his mind the idea that what is done today will influence someone years from now.

Over the long haul, someone will live a certain way because over a period of time, we lived a certain way.

He walked down the aisle of our church the other day. His body had been fighting the war of both cancer and heart disease for some time. With tears in his eyes, he whispered to his pastor, "Tell them I loved Jesus all my life."

His influence will build the future long after he is gone!

Robert Self is pastor, First, Brookhaven.

Baptist Record

"A rubber band really stretched"

RTVC trustees redesign development, syndication

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Revamping plans to raise funds for the ACTS network through new development programs and a revised approach to syndication have been approved by trustees of Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

During their September meeting, trustees heard plans to de-emphasize capital campaigns in favor of fund-raising dinners and direct-mail efforts and to shift the emphasis of the syndication effort from attempting to sell programs already produced for ACTS to producing two versions of the country music show "Country Crossroads." One would be for sale to television stations and the other to be shown on ACTS — and packaging "classic movies" for sale to TV stations.

RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen told Baptist Press the revamping was necessary because previous efforts did not produce enough revenue and costs were "unacceptably high."

According to figures released in August, previous development efforts, which featured four city-wide campaigns, produced \$1.9 million in pledges and actual revenues of \$922,000, at a cost of \$1.2 million, giving the development effort a current cash deficit of \$297,000.

Syndication, in which the RTVC attempted to sell five ACTS shows to commercial TV stations, has resulted in sales of \$88,000, well below the 1985-86 budgeted projection of \$216,000.

"We have been in the process of learning how to conduct capital campaigns, but the cost has been unacceptably high so far," Allen said, adding that ACTS "launched into difficult territory" when it began the fund-raising efforts.

"We do not have constituencies such as seminaries, colleges, and other institutions have, with their built-in loyalty factor," he said. "We have found these capital campaigns are expensive and laborious ways to go. We spent too much to get the funds we obtained."

Allen told trustees the new development plan, designed for the commission by Resource Development Inc., of Springfield, Mo., will emphasize "telemissions dinners" and direct-mail appeals, as well as cultivation of potential major donors which are surfaced through the dinners, mail campaigns, listener inquiries on both radio and television, and referrals.

"We know how to do dinners," Allen told trustees. Information provided the trustees indicated the dinners are expected to produce \$240,000 in revenues this year, against a cost of

\$170,000. In addition to pledges and cash, Allen said, the dinners also have produced major donors and others who are giving regularly to the network.

"We are trying to build a development plan which is workable for us," he said. He emphasized ACTS will keep its promise not to solicit money from viewers with on-air pleas, but will depend on the fund-raising and syndication efforts to provide funds above the nearly \$5 million per year provided by the Southern Baptist Convention's unified program of support, the Cooperative Program.

ACTS will keep its promise not to solicit money from viewers with on-air pleas.

Allen told trustees: "We are learning as we go, dropping some things and picking up some other things. That is part of the process. We are in a creative process where we know we will have to 'blue sky' some, try some things. We will have some things that won't work until we find the things that will work."

During his president's report, Allen introduced trustees to a young Fort Worth woman who had been saved from suicide and made a profession of faith through watching an ACTS program.

"We tend to get wrapped up in numbers — how many see ACTS, how many are able to access the network. But we are not really as much interested in demographics as we are in dynamics. One person trusting Christ as Savior is worth it all, and God is doing that in hundreds and thousands of lives through ACTS," he said.

Allen asked the trustees to help Southern Baptists have patience. "I think we need to pray for our constituency to have patience with the process. You (trustees) need to help them (Southern Baptists) understand that we are not doing crazy things. We are doing new things. Sometimes they are going to work and sometimes they are not going to work."

"We are on stream with ACTS and doing the major things: sharing the good news of God, strengthening families and helping churches access their neighborhoods. Our problem now is that we have got to help people be patient."

Allen also said: "Institutions have a hard time having faith. Individuals have a difficult time having faith, but it is easier to have faith as an individual than as an institution. Institutions are built to organize for their own ongoingness of ministry and they usually move in very gradual steps, safely carrying the trust that we got from yesterday into tomorrow. We seldom risk the life of an institution; institutions just don't die on crosses very well."

"This institution, because of your vision... has made a commitment of faith that says we will risk our very existence in order for Southern Baptists and the churches of America to have access to the families of this country."

He added: "We will risk our very existence as an institution. You (trustees) have said that. I have said that. My fellow institutional leaders have a hard time understanding that. I sometimes have a hard time understanding that, but God has led us to say that this is important, and the fact that many of our folks have not figured it out is just another part of the picture."

"You can't be impatient with them, can't get to fussing with them.... You just go on and demonstrate it until they catch the vision...."

Although one trustee — John Peper of Glen Burnie, Md. — described the financial situation of the network as being "a rubber band really stretched," officials of the commission did not promise either the revamped development effort or the new approach to syndication will work.

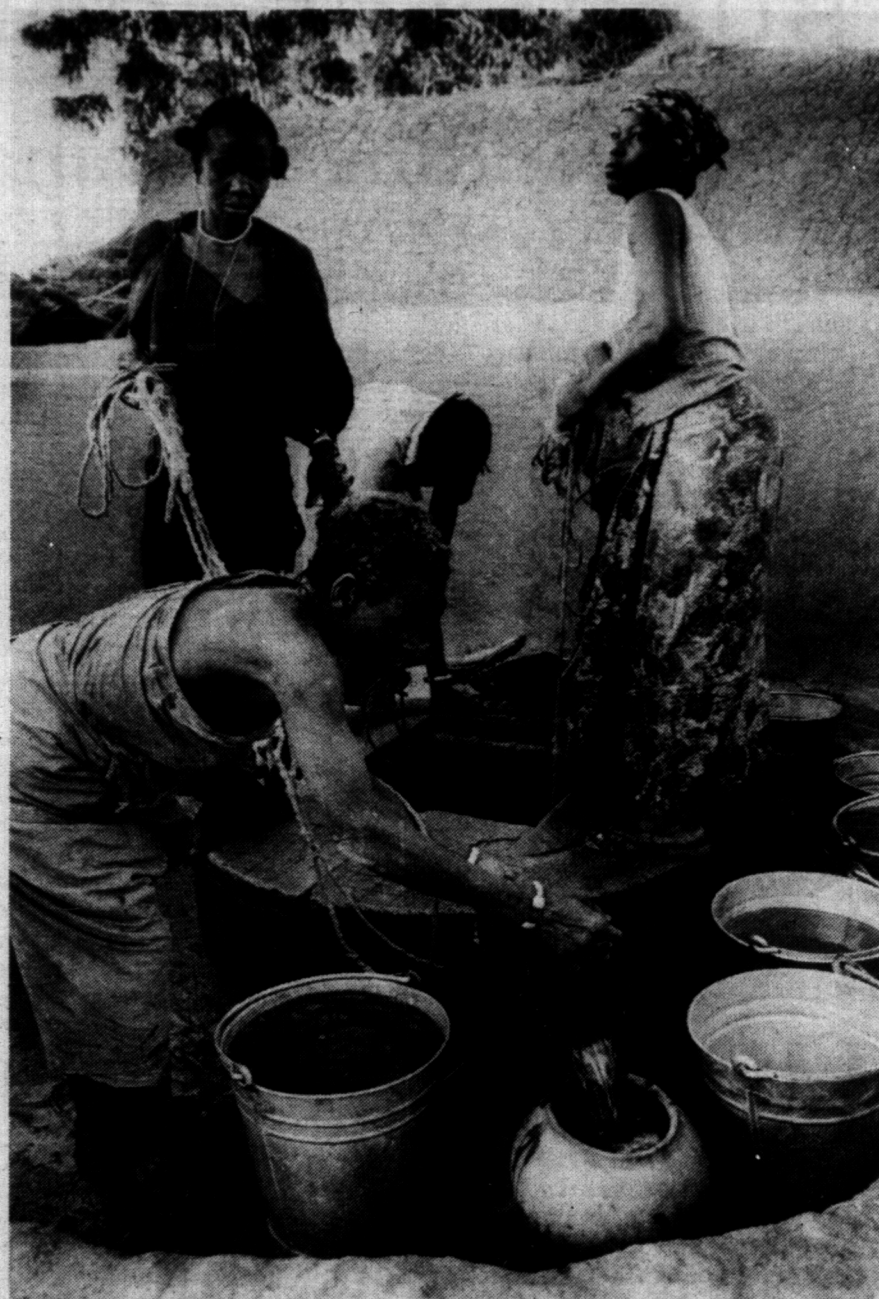
However, in the 1986-87 budget, approved by trustees during the September meeting development efforts are expected to produce \$1.9 million against costs of \$1.1 million.

The budget also projects syndication efforts to produce \$475,000 in revenues from sale of the inventory of current family programs, packages of "classic" family movies, and the revised "Country Crossroads." Costs to syndicate the shows are estimated to be \$461,000.

Trustees appointed immediate past Chairman T. W. Terral of Baton Rouge, La., and Fred Roach, chairman of the finance committee and a Dallas homebuilder, to work with Bob Taylor, vice president of production services, and other commission staffers in monitoring the progress of the syndication effort.

During the business session, Terral commented the commission has been getting along on borrowed money, a situation eased somewhat by a \$10 million loan from the Central Bank of Walnut Creek, Calif.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.



A well that never runs dry

Women in Douentza, Mali, draw water in the courtyard of one of the town's few Christians. Until Christians distributed grain in Mali during last year's drought, this family were the town's only Christians. And they were ridiculed whenever they left their courtyard. Today, their neighbors, impressed by Christian help during the drought, no longer taunt them. Through it all, the Christians have opened their well freely to anyone who comes. And in a land where wells run dry daily, their well has never run dry. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

Off the Record

Harry Lucenay, pastor of Temple, Hattiesburg, told in his church bulletin of Oct. 8 about a happening among the kindergarten children:

"Last Wednesday a group of squirming five-year-olds dropped in on the pastor for a brief visit. Those busy youngsters are a part of our kindergarten. We talked about what the pastor does. Naturally, the children were quick to share a few choice bits of information from their own perspective.

"After leaving the pastor's office, the children went into the worship center. They sat in the choir while Mr. Goodman talked to them about worship, the piano, and the organ. He also pointed out the baptistry. One little fellow raised his hand and asked, 'Is that where God takes a bath?'"

A man was reluctantly making his yearly visit to the dentist. "Good heavens!" exclaimed the dentist. "You have the biggest cavity I've ever seen! Ever seen! Ever seen!"

"Well," said the man. "You don't have to repeat yourself!"

I didn't, cried the dentist. "That was just the echo!"

A government official had to decide whether the elderly lady's farm was located in the US or Canada. When he announced to her that her property

was just inside the US, she seemed very much relieved and said, "I'm so glad to know that. They say that Canadian winters are terribly severe."

Baptist Record

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